

Military frees airspace to cut flights chaos

Continent set to join sky-clearance plan

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

More than 6,000 square miles of British airspace now reserved for military flying are to be released to civilian use in an attempt to ease the congestion in Britain's crowded airways.

Vast areas of north Yorkshire, north Wales and the Bristol Channel are being made available for passenger-carrying aircraft after detailed negotiations between military and civilian air traffic control chiefs.

It is also planned to change the shape of two big naval training areas off the Isle of Wight - which have until now forced commercial aircraft into a single, narrow airway rather than a motorway contra-

flow system - to give air traffic controllers more than 13 miles more airspace to work in.

The number of flights which can be handled could then be increased.

Before this can happen, however, the French air traffic system will have to be changed to take account of the wider airway, and urgent talks are now under way with French civil aviation authorities to

with us and showing that they understand our problems. They are now prepared to move over the bed a bit and allow us a bit more room, although we would like even more.

In Britain the discussions have been going on in a series of joint military-civilian committees for nearly three years and have recently achieved remarkable results. A report about to be published by the Civil Aviation Authority will show that in that time the Ministry of Defence has agreed to give up 13 danger areas around the country and reduce the hours in which a further 39 are closed to civilian traffic.

Talks are continuing on releasing a further six training areas for military use, and even more areas are expected to be opened up soon.

The biggest military "give-away" is the vast north Yorkshire training area extending from South Shields to Carlisle in a huge oblong extending south towards Leeds.

Throughout the entire area civilian aircraft have until now been told to keep out of the upper airspace between 24,500ft and 35,000ft, forcing airlines to fly lower than they wished and preventing air traffic controllers from slotting more aircraft into the busy route north towards America.

Now they will be able to use as much of the airspace as they wish except on specific days when the military closes off the area for a particular exercise.

The RAF has also agreed to limit the amount of sky needed by its Hawk training squadrons operating from RAF Valley in Anglesey, enabling aircraft leaving Manchester to climb directly into the upper airspace on their way to holiday destinations throughout Europe rather than be restricted to low level routes only over north Wales.

Much of the Bristol Channel, until now virtually a no-go area for many commercial aircraft because of military training from RAF Brawdy, is being released, and it is hoped that two big naval flying training areas off the south coast will also be reduced.

Now they believe they have made a vital breakthrough and expect large areas of Italian and German airspace to be handed over to them from this weekend in time to help cope with one of the busiest weekends of the year.

Although the Italian Air Force has formally agreed to free part of the airspace around Rome, the Germans are still arguing that they cannot allow more civilian flights in what they regard as Nato's "front line", and negotiations are still going on involving Nato, air traffic controllers and the German national airline Lufthansa.

A spokesman for the Geneva-based International Air Transport Association said last night: "The military are now beginning to cooperate

At 88, the Queen of grace

هكذا من العجول



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother greeting well-wishers who gathered outside Clarence House yesterday to cheer her on her 88th birthday (Photograph: Peter Triemer).

A poem for royal birthday

By Alan Hamilton

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother celebrated her 88th birthday in time-honoured fashion yesterday by appearing at the gates of Clarence House and bestowing on the waiting crowd her particular talent of the common touch.

Her admirers, of whom there are a great many, had been waiting since dawn. They were rewarded at noon by an appearance of that indefinable quality, which is best described as grace. The Queen Mother, a higher master of public relations even than those who advise the Prime Minister, moved easily among the crowd of hundreds, who always assemble on her birthday, and seemed to have a smile for them all.

She spent more than 15 minutes with the crowd. She spent more than 15 minutes with the crowd. She spent more than 15 minutes with the crowd.

MPs back Prime Minister on nuclear arms control caution

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Prime Minister's repeated insistence on caution and vigilance in the wake of last December's historic superpower agreement to eliminate intermediate nuclear weapons was firmly endorsed yesterday by an all-party Commons committee.

The influential Foreign Affairs select committee issued a warning of significant political pitfalls ahead for Nato and said it was trying to inject an element of realism into the public debate on arms control.

The MPs, in a sobering report, acknowledged that, under Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union had portrayed itself as reasonable and peace-seeking. However, they said that public statements by Soviet officials were not matched by

the positions they adopted at the negotiating table, and that there had been no change in the pattern of the Soviet Union's military procurement and deployment programme.

Mr Gorbachev and the INF treaty had generated a wave of optimism in the West. Nato had to damp down expectations. It had to convince the public that negotiations towards arms control would be "increasingly difficult", and that in the meantime, there should be no slackening of Nato defences.

The INF treaty could lead to more not less defence expenditure as conventional forces were strengthened. Reductions in nuclear missiles were likely to be smaller than anticipated. Foreign Office sources wel-

Security dispute intensifies as Thatcher calls off walkabout

From Robin Oakley, Sydney

Police and Downing Street officials agreed yesterday to cancel a planned walkabout in Sydney by Mrs Thatcher, after the chaotic scenes in Melbourne the previous day when she was jostled by crowds of shouting demonstrators.

But the dispute between Mrs Thatcher's officials and the Victoria state police, who were responsible for the security breakdown in Melbourne, intensified.

The Sydney walkabout was cancelled after advice from the New South Wales police in the wake of the Melbourne incident. They said that they could cope but that large numbers of men would be required.

A Downing Street official said of the cancelled walkabout: "It was going to be more trouble than it was worth. The Prime Minister would not meet the public."

Mr Nick Greiner, the state Premier, said that there were some obvious security problems in a shopping centre that Mrs Thatcher had been due to visit, and that was why the walkabout had been cancelled.

People were entitled to protest, but they ought to do it in a sensible way. He described the Melbourne incident as "unedifying".

There was a strange twist to the dispute over the Melbourne affair, which is the subject of an internal police inquiry in Victoria. A Sydney television station

reported Mr Frank Green, the Assistant Commissioner of Police responsible for security in Melbourne, as saying that he had received a note of thanks from the Prime Minister. He said: "She said she realized that she had caused us a few problems but said, 'They can't stop us from going around, can they?' And they can't."

Mr Green admitted that, for a moment, "it was hairy". He said that, given the experience again, he would do things differently, including calling in more police.

But he maintained: "The media contingent in front of the Prime Minister was our main problem."

Mr Green also claimed that he had advised against the walkabout route chosen by the Thatcher party, but his plans had been dismissed by British officials.

But Downing Street sources were emphatic that Mr Green had played no part in the reconnoitring discussions and that they had received no advice against using the route chosen.

They insisted that no letter of thanks had been sent to Mr Green, though one possible source of confusion was that Mrs Thatcher did thank some police officers for their efforts to protect her.

In further television interviews, Mr Green said that he

WIN £138,000

Portfolio

PLUS NEW

Accumulator

With one winner of yesterday's £4,000 daily prize (see page 3) the Portfolio Accumulator stands at £138,000.

Prices: page 27

INSIDE

Museum collections in danger

Five million biological specimens could rot away in British museums because of underfunding, a report by the Museums Association says.

It says most museums cannot afford to employ even a single specialist curator to care for valuable flower, insect and animal collections. Some have cataloguing backlogs dating back 200 years. Page 2

£7m frozen in Clowes hunt

Liquidators for Barlow Clowes International, the offshore arm of the crashed investment group, have frozen assets of up to £7 million of Ryeman Ltd, a British Virgin Islands company. Ernst & Whinney, the accountancy firm acting as liquidator, has obtained court orders in London and on the Isle of Man freezing the assets. Page 23

England slide

England struggled to 203 for nine in the final Test against the West Indies after being 116 for two. Page 36

Degree results

Aston University and London medical and veterinary degrees will be published tomorrow. Sussex and Birmingham awards appear today. Page 26

TIMES FOCUS

From cool reds to champagne-like beers, Times experts offer tips for drinks to enjoy in the long-delayed British summer. Pages 16, 18

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Electricity prices may rise by 5pc

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Electricity prices are likely to rise again next April in the run-up to privatization. An 8 per cent rise was announced last April and next year's could be about 5 per cent.

The Electricity Council reported yesterday that it had met government financial targets for the past three years without rises, but now accepted that it would have to raise prices to continue to meet the norm for nationalized industry profits.

Overall the industry met its government targets for the year 1987-88, but the generating side reported reduced profits because of higher costs in running nuclear power stations.

The industry reported profits of £865 million before tax and £154.6 million after tax. Targets met, page 23

Comparative profits, page 26

Two workmen die in Ulster ambush

By Mark Whittet and Andrew Moger

The upsurge in violence in Northern Ireland continued last night with the killing of two men in Belleek, Co Fermanagh. They were ambushed with automatic weapons within sight of an RUC police station, some 300 yards from the border with the Republic.

Four gunmen carrying rifles stepped out from a building a wall in front of a van as it carried workmen home to the small Belleek village and poured a volley of shots into the vehicle. Two men - one a Protestant - died instantly.

The reason for the attack was unclear, but it was understood the men were working on a building project at the local police station. Recently, the IRA has warned construction companies against taking on such contracts.

One of the first people on the scene, a crossroads in the middle of the village, was a local physician, Dr Eugene

Deeny, who said: "The two men must have been killed on the spot. I heard a large number of shots - it must have been at least 50 - before I got to the scene."

"It was a picture of butchery. They had multiple bullet wounds to their heads and chest."

The RUC and the Garda last night launched a manhunt on both sides of the border. A book bomb: A parcel bomb was received yesterday at the constituency office of the Rev William McCrae, Democratic Unionist MP for Mid-Ulster.

Book-sized and bearing a Dublin postmark, it was opened by his private secretary, Mr Rodney Mitchell, and was later destroyed by the Army with a small controlled charge.

The RUC then warned members of the Ulster public to be on their guard when examining and opening their post.

Labour attack on Militant bastion

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Labour Party's battle against the Militant Tendency is about to flare again with rule changes going before the autumn conference designed to crush its last bastion of organized influence, the Young Socialists.

The YS, long regarded as a Militant-front organization, is to have its power base weakened under proposals giving more weight to the National Organization of Labour Students and young members of leading trade unions.

And the YS is to lose its right to elect a member to serve on Labour's ruling national executive. Instead a new National Youth Conference, made up of a cross-section of young Labour activists, will elect the NEC member. In recent years the YS nominee has been a Militant supporter, giving the tendency a vital foothold in Labour's policy and organization machine.

Militant pledged last night to stop the changes at the October conference in Blackpool. A spokesman said: "These changes are clearly aimed at limiting the influence of Militant among young people. But they will work no more than the efforts of the Labour leadership to limit our influence in Liverpool have worked. We are stronger than ever in Liverpool, and this latest attack on us will eventually make us strong among young people in the Labour Party."

The new rule changes mark the second stage of Labour's assault on Militant within the Young Socialists. The last conference agreed changes to the regional organization of the Young Socialists, by creating regional youth campaigns committees and breaking Militant's regional power.

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The highly-paid 'custody' of Red Square pilot

From John England, Bonn

West Germans waiting for Herr Mathias Rust's personal story of his derring-do flight to Red Square in Moscow will have to be patient.

Herr Rust, aged 20, was flown back to West Germany on Wednesday after being pardoned and freed by the Russians from a four-year labour camp sentence for his stunt. But he was yesterday in another, albeit more lucrative, form of custody - at a secret hiding place known only to the weekly magazine, Stern.

The magazine, through Herr Rust's parents, Herr Karl-Heinz and Frau Monika Rust, bought world rights to his story within a few hours of his landing near the Kremlin walls on May 28 last

year. It will begin to reveal all on Monday in an exclusive series.

It is reported to have paid the Rust family more than £300,000 for its coup. But it is bound to show a profit from world sales of serialization, book and film rights. Stern's syndication department said yesterday that British rights to the story had already been sold, although it would not say to whom and for how much. Hollywood film agents are also said to be rushing to sign up Herr Rust for an epic on his aerial adventure, with one bid said to be at least \$100,000 (£57,000).

But the newly-rich young man, meanwhile, faces possible West German legal action over his flight, despite his pardon by the Russians. The public prosecutor's office in Itzehoe, near Hamburg, says an

investigation which it began in June last year will continue.

Allegations against Herr Rust include suspected endangering of air traffic and fraud. The latter count is in connection with his hiring of the Cessna 172 from the Hamburg Aero Club for a tour of a "few days".

The Civil Aviation Authority in Hamburg says it will also question Herr Rust about his flight to help it decide whether he will be allowed to keep his private pilot's licence.

Stern came out yesterday without a word about Herr Rust, because the Russians, inconveniently, freed him too late for even its notably agile editors. But its representatives, some of whom are believed to have flown with Herr Rust

Continued on page 22, col 6



Herr Rust: Taken to a secret hide-away by journalists

Oh well,
YOU CAN BE SURE OF SHELL

NEWS ROUNDUP

Tax dispute over street car races

A valuation court was asked to decide yesterday whether roads in Birmingham used for Britain's first Monaco-style car racing are liable for a £30,000 rates bill.

Birmingham City Council objected to an Inland Revenue decision that the 2.47 mile circuit for its two-day Super Prix would be a public highway during the August Bank holiday event. Officials said the street racing would be jeopardized if the council had to pay a rate demand of more than £100,000 to cover the event since it started in 1986.

The Inland Revenue told the Birmingham Valuation Court that the streets used by Formula 3,000 cars were liable for rating because they were closed to the public, who were charged for admission.

Mr Bryan Burgin, district valuation officer for the Inland Revenue, said: "Highways cannot be subject to rateable values, but these roads are being used for something else which is beneficial".

The court will give its decision next Wednesday.

Smoke risk study

Babies of mothers who smoke are nearly twice as likely to require urgent hospital care as children of non-smoking mothers, a survey by Tameside and Glossop Health Authority in Manchester has found. The study compared 50 babies who were urgent admissions to hospital with 100 babies who were non-urgent admissions. "The link with smoking by their mothers was clear", Dr Tony Edgar, specialist in community medicine, said. "The most important action young mothers can take is to keep clear of cigarettes."

Africar written off

The project to build a plywood rival to the Land Rover, called Africar, for use in the Third World has floundered following development difficulties. The company has laid off its 50 workers and its factory has been re-possessed. Lancaster City Council will attempt to recover some of the £100,000 of loans it provided. Production of the car, which received national publicity when the project's founder, Mr Anthony Howarth, made four TV programmes documenting a 10,000 mile trek to prove its durability, was to have started over 12 months ago.

Deposit plan attacked

A Government plan to charge a £150 deposit before cases can be taken to industrial tribunals will lead to "cheque book justice", according to the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux. The Association's director, Elizabeth Filkin, said that, if enacted, "the proposals would seriously erode the original intention of these tribunals as a cheap and accessible means of resolving grievances at work". People did not generally undertake industrial tribunal cases lightly and introducing an extra financial burden would unfairly deter those on low incomes, she said.

Pit arrests cash

Nottinghamshire police have paid more than £30,000 to 10 people for wrongful arrest, assault and false imprisonment during the year-long miners' strike of 1984. The settlement, which includes legal costs and compensation, was paid after the issuing of writs against Nottinghamshire's chief constable by the National Union of Mineworkers. Mr Sidney Richmond, aged 79, a former miner from Mansfield, and his son, Mr Norman Richmond, aged 40, each received £2,000.

Police impersonation

Three men were charged yesterday with impersonating police officers after an incident at a traffic diversion on the A607 between Melton Mowbray and Leicester, at Melton Mowbray Magistrates' Court. Ian Hutchinson, aged 23, of Grange Drive, Christopher Brooks, aged 19, of Conway Drive and Mark Ellingworth, aged 17, of Chadwell Close, all from Melton Mowbray, were remanded in custody for 24 hours to appear before magistrates at Loughborough, Leicestershire, this morning. Hutchinson faces an additional charge of burglary. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

IRA activity marks 20 years of troubles

German link to Mill Hill bomb

By Stewart Tandler and Michael Horsnell

Scotland Yard detectives believe the IRA bomb used to blast the Inglis Barracks at Mill Hill, north London, on Tuesday could be similar to devices planted by the Provisionals last month at an Army camp in West Germany.

Anti-terrorist specialists suspect that an IRA active service unit in Britain is using crude, short-timed devices from bomb makers who also supplied the IRA unit which planted two 20 lb bombs which wounded nine servicemen at the Glamorgan Barracks, Duisburg.

There was a growing suspicion in Belfast yesterday that the sudden upsurge in IRA activity could be linked with a campaign to mark the twentieth anniversary of the latest Ulster troubles in August next year.

Police do not rule out the possibility that one IRA unit may have been responsible for the Mill Hill and West German attacks. Forensic specialists are likely to compare debris and other evidence.

In both attacks, the bombers struck at night, leaving devices which exploded a few hours after they were activated.

Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch believes the Mill Hill bomb was left sometime during Sunday night or early on Monday morning. The bombers had picked a barrack block used by permanent staff at the camp, which meant they could be assured of a target. They had also known enough about the barrack routine to avoid a night patrol.

The bombers are thought to have parked a getaway vehicle close to the camp and then walked into the central area through an unguarded back gate. They had opened a rear door to the building and had slipped the bomb, hidden in a bag, inside.



Mourners carrying the coffin yesterday at the funeral of Mr John Warnock, an RUC officer killed by a IRA car bomb.

The police have identified at least four suspects. They believe the most likely bombers were two men seen at about 11pm going into the block with a bag who left later empty-handed. They also want to trace a jogger who was seen running through the rubble.

They are also interested in identifying a young woman, described as blonde and "striking", who was seen crossing the parade ground in front of the bombed block.

Det Supt Christopher Bird confirmed at an inquest yesterday that a bomb had caused the blast. The inquest at Hornsey, north London, coroners' court was on Lance Corporal Michael Robbins,

aged 23, who was killed in the explosion.

He said explosive traces were identified from swabs taken at the site.

Professor David Bowen, of Charing Cross Hospital medical school, west London, said the cause of death was "traumatic asphyxia". He said after the hearing had been adjourned that a number of people had been trapped by rubble.

A pro-IRA march and rally is to go ahead in London tomorrow in spite of calls for it to be banned. Scotland Yard has told the organizers to ensure that it passes without confrontation and warned that grounds could still arise which could lead to a ban.

The march, organized by the Irish Freedom Movement to mark the seventeenth anniversary of internment in Northern Ireland, will be held in Islington, north-east London.

About 2,000 people are expected to attend the four-mile march, which starts outside Islington town hall and ends with a rally at Whittington Park where prominent republicans are expected to speak. Local councillors are expected to attend.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Selly Oak, called for a ban on the march, which was organized months ago. However, the only person with the power to formally request a banning order by the Home

Secretary under the 1936 Public Order Act is the Commissioner of Police.

Mr Phil Murphy, national organizer of the Irish Freedom Movement, said: "We don't see why events of the last few days should lead us to call off the march. We see it in the context of a war which has gone on for 20 years."

Scotland Yard said: "We have communicated with the organizers that it is our intention to see it pass off without confrontation or conflict. There are no grounds to ban the march so far."

The march marks the start of a renewed republican campaign to demand the withdrawal of British troops.

CFCs 'will bring an epidemic of skin cancers'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

There will be an epidemic of skin cancers in Britain unless a drastic reduction is made soon in the use of CFCs that are damaging the ozone layer, according to a leading article in the *British Medical Journal* by one of the country's most eminent dermatologists.

Professor Rona MacKie, from the University of Glasgow, predicts that the type of skin cancers that are prevalent from long, daily exposure of white skin to intense natural sunlight, in places such as Australia, will become commonplace in the UK. She

describes plans to reduce the production of CFC compounds used in aerosols, refrigerators and plastic cartons by half by the end of the 1990s as "too little, too late".

"A drastic reduction is needed as soon as possible to prevent an environmental problem from becoming an environmental catastrophe", she says.

The cancers would be caused by an increase in ultraviolet B radiation slipping through the ozone screen to reach the earth's surface.

But the article, written in conjunction with Dr Michael Rycroft, of the

British Antarctic Survey, draws attention for the first time to the threat posed by ultraviolet C radiation in sunlight.

They say: "whereas current instruments detect ultraviolet B, ultraviolet C may now be penetrating through a depleted ozone layer with grave biological consequences".

They say evidence of this must be sought and an international network of monitoring equipment is needed to record changes of all types of ultraviolet radiation: A, B and C.

The loss of ozone is caused by chlorine atoms released from the

CFCs. The chlorine atoms interfere with the normal processes by which ultraviolet radiation is first filtered out and then followed by regeneration of ozone involved in the reaction.

But the chlorine atoms remain in the atmosphere for more than 100 years, and one atom of chlorine may destroy 10,000 ozone molecules.

Since a hole in the ozone layer was first discovered over Antarctica, man-made substances have reduced it by 10 per cent. Scientists agree that a 1 per cent reduction in the shield leads to a 2 per cent rise in ultraviolet B reaching the earth's surface.

Britain's biology heritage 'in crisis'

By Andrew Billen

Millions of biological specimens are in danger of rotting away, a Museums Association survey disclosed yesterday, months after a National Audit Office report showed that thousands of works of art were decaying in under-supervised museums.

The 600-page report on 300 British museums holding specimens of flowers, insects and animals says the nation's biological heritage is in crisis. It blames decades of underfunding for endangering nearly five million specimens, 2.5 million of which it classifies as already "in a bad condition".

Three-quarters of museums cannot afford to employ even a single specialist curator to look after their collections, the report says.

It recommends the rationalization of collections and an increase in funding to pay for more curators and laboratories.

Mr Fred Dunning, of the Natural History Museum, who chaired the working party that oversaw the five-year survey, called for the appointment of a dozen travelling biology conservators, to do emergency conservation work.

The cost would perhaps be £750,000, he said.

"It is comparatively easy to get money for the arts. You can raise £2 million for a painting but you cannot find £2,000 to conserve any number of biological specimens."

Although the names of the worst affected museums have not been disclosed, the report says three-quarters of museums in the UK are incapable of ensuring the proper care.

Some have backlogs of uncatalogued specimens dating back 200 years; one had obtained a natural history collection in 1784 began cataloguing only in 1978.

Mr Graham Farnell, director general of the Museums Association, called the report "shocking". Mr Fred Woodward, deputy keeper of natural history at Glasgow Museum, said the report would tell curators little they did not already know about chronic underfunding.

He said his museum had dried plants collected in the 1920s that were still lying in their original newspaper wrappings. His department's staff would have to be doubled to allow proper conservation.

Drug offers hope to heart patients

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A new £1 a day drug treatment that could reduce the risk of heart attacks by two-thirds has been supported by a British medical expert who claims it could help more than 100,000 people suffering from inherited high cholesterol.

Professor Barry Lewis, a cholesterol expert at St Thomas' Hospital, south London, yesterday said that the new drug, Gemfibrozil, appeared to have few side effects and could be of significant long term benefit for high cholesterol sufferers.

A five-year trial conducted in Helsinki, Finland, on 4,000 men showed that the number of heart attacks were reduced by a third in the first year and by two-thirds after five years. Participants in the trial were put on the same low cholesterol diet and were counselled to stop smoking and take more exercise. They were compared with a control group who were also counselled, but were given a placebo.

Dr Vesa Manninen, of Helsinki University, told a press conference in London yesterday that there were few medical side effects.

Dr Manninen said that the drug increased the amount of high density lipoprotein (HDL) in the blood, which removes cholesterol from body tissues, taking it to the liver where it is broken down and eliminated from the body.

It also decreased low density lipoproteins which carry cholesterol into the tissues. Professor Lewis said about half of Britain's adult population had undesirable high cholesterol with about a quarter of those presenting a high risk of coronary heart disease.

Professor Lewis has been using the drug, which has been marketed by the manufacturers Warner Lambert under the name Lopid for nearly a year, on his own patients.

He said: "I think it is a magnificent study. It shows that there is a drug which has no significant side effects which reduces the incidence of heart attacks by one third at least."

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Researchers reject vitamin link to IQ

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Claims that vitamin supplements can boost the intelligence of schoolchildren have failed to find any support in a study into the supposed link published in *The Lancet*.

In January, researchers at the University College of Swansea claimed to have found a significant increase in intelligence among schoolchildren given supplements at Darland High School, Wrexham, Chwyd.

The study was seized on by some health product manufacturers who marketed vitamin supplements implying that they improved IQ.

Now a substantially larger inquiry, involving more than 150 London schoolchildren, has failed to find any evidence for an IQ improvement.

Conducted by the department of food and nutritional sciences of King's College London, the study looked for differences in intelligence among 11 and 12-year-olds given either a vitamin supplement or a placebo.

Both sets of children performed better in the second IQ

tests given after the pills had been administered, a reflection of their greater familiarity with such tests. However, there was no significant difference between the groups in the results.

The King's College team conclude that "while vitamin and mineral supplements may be of benefit to the health of children whose diets give cause for concern, it is clear from the present study that no improvements in intellectual performance can be expected."

Dr Michael Nelson, a member of the team, said the results were also supported by biochemical studies of the way in which the brain absorbs vitamins.

These have shown that the brain has a kind of overload protection mechanism which stops unnecessarily high levels of vitamins accumulating.

Dr Nelson added that a further study, to be published later, showed that even for children from relatively poor backgrounds, vitamin supplements had no effect on IQ.

Passenger delays at Gatwick

Engine trouble halts Virgin

By David Nicholson-Lord

Passengers flying to New York with Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic faced long delays from Gatwick yesterday after a Boeing 747 was grounded with engine faults and Virgin was unable to charter a replacement.

Most of the 378 passengers scheduled to fly out at 4.15 pm were found seats with other airlines but some had to wait until this morning after a hold-up of 18 hours.

On Wednesday almost 400 passengers bound for Miami, on a flight scheduled to leave Gatwick at 12.30pm, departed six hours late after Virgin managed to charter a Cargolux aircraft. Yesterday, however, Virgin tried 80 airlines but could not find a replacement.

The Boeing suffered damage to the engine mounting and was being repaired by

FLIGHTCHECK

British Airways: Virgin could not say when it would be back in service. Passengers were urged to check in as normal but were advised to ring 0293 38222 for further information.

Other flight details: Birmingham: Wardair flight to Toronto scheduled out 8.05am, departed 1 1/2 hours late. Danair flight from Miami scheduled 3.20pm, arrived 4.20pm.

Bristol: Paramont flight to Faro scheduled out 10.50am, departed 11.50am. Some flights arriving and departing early, airport says.

East Midlands: No delays.

Gatwick: CalAir flight to Faro scheduled out 2.55pm, expected to depart 11pm. Heathrow: No delays.

Leeds/Bradford: No delays. Manchester: Arrivals: British Airways from Munich scheduled 3.15pm, arrived 7.15pm; Danair from Faro scheduled 3.15pm, arrived 6.30pm; Calair from Palma scheduled 3.50pm, arrived 6pm; Britannia from Tenerife scheduled 6.10pm, expected 10.40pm. Departures: Air Portugal to Lisbon scheduled out 4.50pm, departed 5.45pm; Calair to Los Palmas scheduled out 5pm, expected to depart 10.05pm.

Newcastle: Arrivals: Paramont flight from Salomika scheduled 3.05pm, arrived 3.55pm; Britannia flight from Heraklion scheduled 5.45pm, expected 10.45pm.

Mestel leads in chess round four

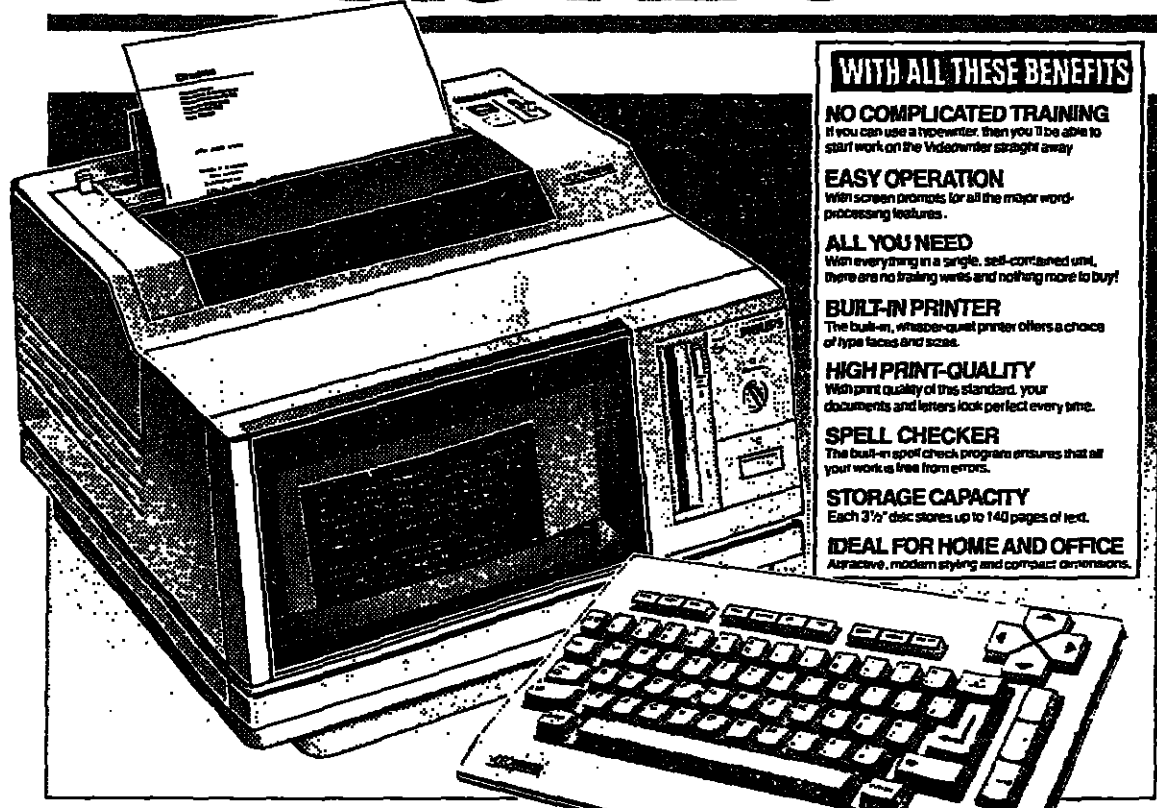
By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

Round four of the Kleinwort Benson British Chess Championship at Blackpool produced a clear leader when Murray Chandler and Niaz Mamedov, Jonathan Mestel beat the Bolton international master David Norwood to bring his score to 4 points out of 4, leaving Chandler and Mamedov half a point behind.

Mestel has twice been champion in 1976 and 1983. Round four results:

Murray Chandler 4, N Mamedov 4, J Mestel 4, G Beaumont 3, J Cooper 3, G Lane 3, V Anand 3, I Rogers 2, Howell 2, D Knox 2, W Watson 1, K Arkell 1, N Carton 1, A Dunnington 1, P Wells 1, J Poulton 1, R Freeman 1, A Jones 0, G Oswald 1.

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Half-point rise in base rates fails to satisfy markets

By Steve Levinson
Economics Correspondent

$\frac{1}{2}$ pc loan rate rise to calm fear

Wall, Economics Correspondent

ENT ordered another half-point rise to 94 per cent yesterday as it reacted to monetary pressures in the economy. It rose in a month and City experts higher.

higher.
ows of a record \$1.2 on deficit in
current acc... Soaring
es are exp... demand for
in the... use... dealer

to rise

Home owners are unlikely to face higher mortgage bills before Aug. 1, when a one per cent rise to 10 per cent is expected.

The stepped increase in bank rates—from 15 per cent—is seen as a signal to

Base rates set to rise

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home owners are unlikely to
face higher mortgage bills before
Aug. 1, when a one per cent rise
to 10 1/2 per cent is expected.

The stepped increase in bank
rates — from 11 per cent — is
seen as a blow to

enough to cool down the
economy and will soon have
raise rates again.

The pound recovered to close nearly two cents up at \$1.7215 and improved by more than one cent against the dollar.

Inflation new base

Markets convinced

Fourth rise in price

to order
base rate

BACK UP
1/2 PER CENT

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INF deal welcomed, but with warning to Nato

Nuclear weapon cuts will 'raise tension in the West'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Progress towards genuine arms control is fraught with potential dangers for the Nato alliance, the Commons foreign affairs committee said yesterday.

The all-party committee identified a series of political problems that such progress — particularly the superpower agreement to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear forces — had created or accentuated.

After an intensive seven-month inquiry, taking them to Bonn and Washington, the MPs pointed to the likelihood of exacerbated tensions between Nato members, to the probable need for greater defence spending at a time when the public perception was of a diminishing threat by the Soviet Union, and to powerful Russian propaganda, not yet matched by that country's actions.

They said the INF treaty would lead to a smaller reduction in nuclear weapons than was generally expected. Nato would be in a weak bargaining position for negotiating cuts in conventional forces, and the difficulties involved in verifying conventional and chemical weapon cuts would be immense.

The MPs also expressed concern about the political and defence implications of a reduced American presence in Europe.

The committee, which has a Conservative majority, said it welcomed the INF agreement. Further arms controls and reductions should be pursued "as vigorously as possible".

However, it added that "governments should be prepared for a long haul" and

should not allow themselves to be carried away on the wave of optimism that had been created by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Kremlin leader.

"In the period ahead the divergence between politically encouraged expectations and probable results is likely to face Nato governments with major challenges", the committee said.

The report said the INF treaty intensified the controversy over whether short-range nuclear weapons should be improved and modernized to compensate, and that was a threat to relations between West Germany and her Nato allies.

The Germans were acutely aware that greater reliance on short-range nuclear weapons increased the probability of West Germany becoming the principal "battleground".

The issue had already caused "considerable strains" within the alliance. "Unless

DEFENCE EXPENDITURE OF NATO COUNTRIES

	GDP %	Total (\$USm)
US	6.8	282,165
Greece	6.3	2,972
UK	4.7	30,859
Turkey	4.7	2,890
France	4.0	34,529
Norway	3.2	2,634
Portugal	3.2	1,135
Netherlands	3.1	6,502
Germany	3.0	34,233
Belgium	3.0	4,142
Italy	2.2	16,806
Denmark	2.1	2,127
Canada	2.1	8,516
Spain	2.0	5,738
Luxembourg	1.2	76

Source: Statement of the Defence Estimates, CM 344-I, p 53

the issue is handled with great sensitivity... the political consequences for Nato could be serious.

The INF treaty also raised the issue of whether to deploy cruise missile-carrying submarines or air-launched cruise missiles capable of reaching Russia. That would compensate for the loss of land-based intermediate missiles and maintain Nato's "flexible response" capability.

However, the report questioned whether doing so would be in the spirit of the treaty. "It will come as a surprise to many that while land-based missiles are to go, both Nato and the Warsaw Pact are rapidly devising new weaponry to cover much the same targets as before."

Nor did the treaty mean lower defence spending. Conventional forces would have to be bolstered to compensate, and that would be costly. At the same time, the United States would be pressing for Europe to contribute proportionately more to its own defence.

"The alliance faces a further problem — how to maintain public support for defence spending when the Soviet Union's image is softening."

In spite of the Soviet Union's apparent new attitude, "the committee has yet to see hard evidence of a change in deployment of Soviet forces or of procurement for future deployment".

The MPs said it was important politically for Nato to do its utmost to respond with counter-proposals to Russian initiatives

and to put forward its own ideas for negotiation.

In the event of a superpower agreement to make deep cuts in strategic nuclear weapons, the report said America might be reluctant to devote as many nuclear systems to the defence of Europe.

Further strategic arms talks might have to involve the British and French nuclear forces. The threat of American "decoupling" was present.

"All this contains the seeds of possible difficulties for the UK's relations, particularly with the United States."

After nuclear arms reductions, the Soviet Union's considerable superiority in conventional and chemical weaponry would become "the prime source of instability".

The committee notes that "to reach anything like an equal balance in conventional forces, the Warsaw Pact and particularly the Soviet Union would have to withdraw as much as two-thirds of their strength in tanks and artillery from Europe."

"It is hard to see much leverage from the Nato side with which to negotiate from strength."

The problems of verifying agreed cuts in conventional and chemical weapons would be of an entirely different magnitude to the verification required by the INF treaty. There were "vast and increasing complexities" that would have to be faced, but the attempt should be made.

Foreign Affairs Committee: The Political Impact of the Soviet Arms Control and Disarmament (Stationery Office: £12.95)

Threat to Brent teachers' jobs

Union to fight redundancies

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Britain's biggest teaching union has vowed to fight plans to make 230 teachers redundant in the Labour-controlled north-west London borough of Brent.

The National Union of Teachers forced Haringey, the Labour council in north London, to withdraw similar plans to dismiss teachers earlier this year as part of budget cuts. Yesterday the union declared its determination to fight Brent.

A meeting of the borough's education committee on Wednesday agreed to save £3.29 million as part of cuts totalling £17.2 million the council is making to avoid being ratecapped.

The plan involves dismissing teachers, closing all nursery schools and four youth and community centres, scrapping the school meals service and ending grants to all but four community groups.

Although the union said it would fight the redundancy plans — expected to save the council £1.25 million — it privately accused the council of employing "scare tactics".

Union officials said talks

had already taken place about shedding up to 200 of Brent's 2,100 teachers through voluntary redundancy and early retirement.

Among those whose jobs could be at risk from the cuts is Mr Malcolm Horne, the union president, who teaches at Willesden High School. He was on holiday in Australia yesterday and had not been told of the council's decision.

Mr Nitin Parshotam, education committee chairman, said last night that even if the cuts were implemented in full Brent would still have a better pupil teacher ratio than many other London boroughs.

Parents at two successful and popular comprehensive schools have been told that if they agree to the schools being turned into city technology colleges they will receive £4 million to pay for rebuilding and other improvements (David Tytler, Education Editor, writes).

Critics describe the scheme as unfair to other schools in the area.

A report in this week's *Times Educational Supplement* says that the CTC option for the future of the two-single

sex Haberdashers' Aske's schools in Lewisham, south-east London, is strongly supported by Mr Christopher Bostock, the chairman of the governors, on behalf of the Haberdashers' Livery Company, which runs the school jointly with the Inner London Education Authority.

A consultation document on the future of the schools is being sent to about 10,000 people, including parents, former pupils, and staff as well as to parents and staff of local schools who may consider sending their children there in the future.

In discussing the city college plan, the document explains the two other options — remaining as voluntary-controlled schools with Lewisham after the abolition of ILEA, or opting out.

As a city college each school would be funded by Whitehall, but unlike other CTCs would be able to top up this grant from their own resources.

Parents are told that the new colleges would improve the schools' facilities for science, humanities and physical education.

Counties of old die hard

By David Walker

Many people living in Humberside still believe it is really the East Riding of Yorkshire but, in spite of fierce allegiance to the old boundaries, the counties created in 1974 are here to stay, according to a report published today.

The Local Government Boundary Commission says it has not been convinced of the need to redraw the map even though strong feelings exist locally that Avon properly belongs to Somerset, and that Cleveland is a mismatch of Yorkshire and Durham.

In *People and Places*, which reports on the Boundary Commission's work since 1983, the commissioners say that "those who write to us or whose names appear on petitions are usually only a small proportion of those concerned and we can make no assumptions about the views of the silent majority either way". The law allows the commissioners to recommend the abolition of counties, but the commissioners say that protesters have not convinced them that new counties such as Humberside have failed.

The Boundary Commission's recommendations include giving the Isle of Wight a single council for all functions instead of the county council and two district councils which now serve its 119,800 people.

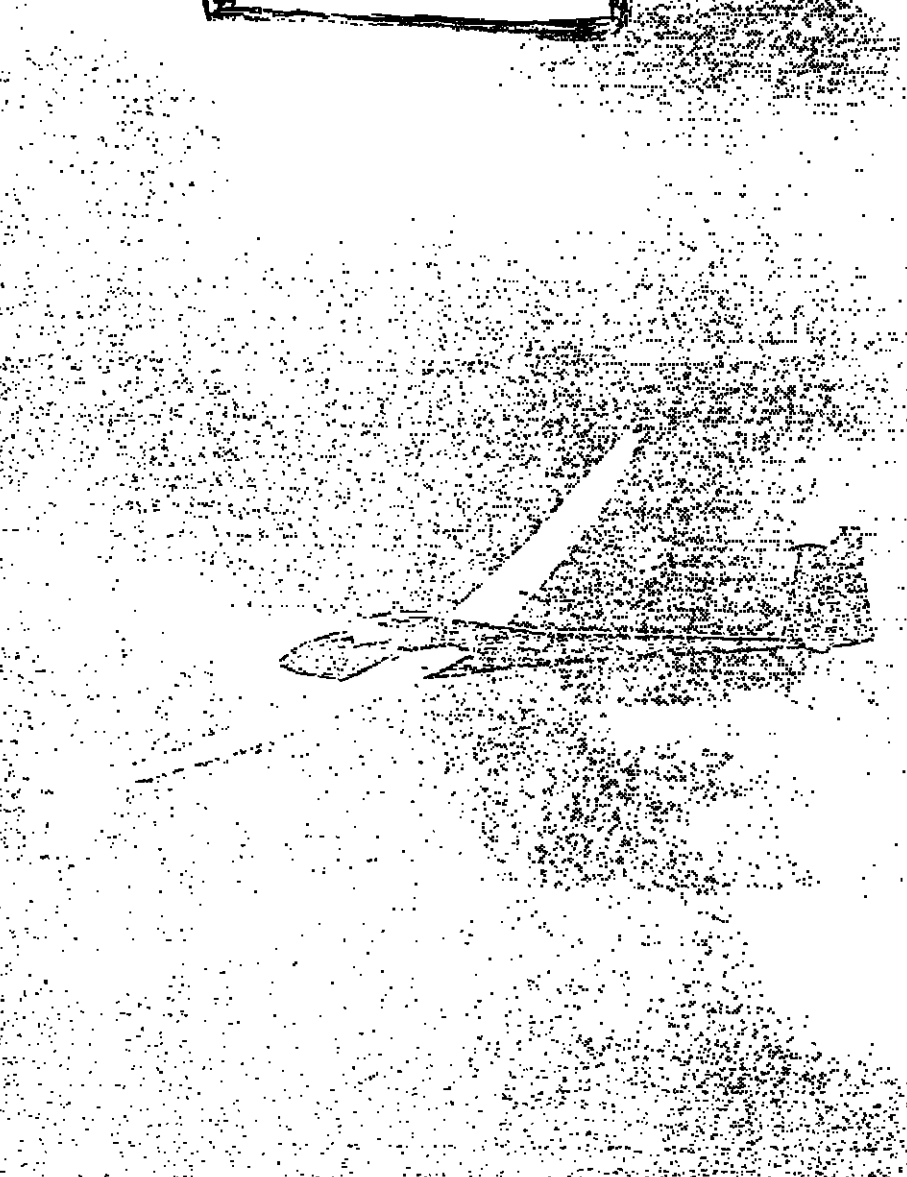
Substantial boundary changes are also proposed for the London area, including Heathrow airport, which is divided between Hounslow, Hillingdon and Surrey, and Wembley, which is part of Labour-controlled Brent and which some local people want to become part of Conservative Harrow.

The commission also says there is a need for the law to be changed to allow it to make quicker studies of high growth areas, and asks the Government to give more thought to the consequences for the size of councils of its reforms involving poll tax, education and housing.

People and Places (Stationery Office: £4.50).

Alone in a stormy sky

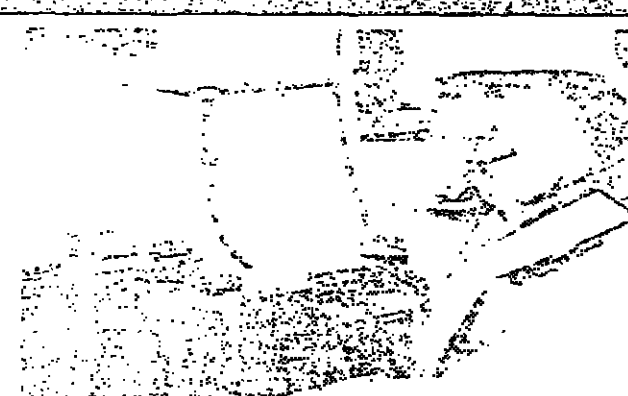
مغامرة في السحاب



Wingtip gliding in the sea

August saw a Nimrod glider flown by Mrs Pam Hawkins (right) circles over Hampshire yesterday in practice for the national gliding championships starting tomorrow.

Mrs Hawkins, aged 34, a veterinary surgeon from Hants, Exeter, is the only woman competing for the Open Class title at Lasham near Alton. Pioneering landmarks during the event to prove they have completed the course. (Photograph: Julian Herbert)



Big house price rises 'may have peaked'

House prices may have peaked after increasing by 25 per cent throughout Britain in a year, the Halifax Building Society said yesterday.

Many regions had seen prices rise by more than 40 per cent in the year to last month, with property in Essex Anglia rising by 55 per cent.

However, the Halifax said the August 1 deadline for the ending of double taxation for unmarried couples had led to a big increase in the number of properties being bought, which further increased prices.

The figures were compiled before the big rise in mortgage rates from about 6.75 per cent to 11.5 per cent at the end of last month. Halifax said factors should put a brake on price rises.

Prices rose by 21 per cent in London and by more than 30 per cent in the South-east. However, the so-called bubble effect meant the biggest rises were being seen in regions bordering the Home Counties.

Prices in the East of England Midlands and the South-east increased by more than 40 per cent. House in Humberside and Humberside, which were showing rises of about 15 per cent a few months ago, are increasing by up to 20 per cent. However, the rising tide in other northern regions still lagged behind the rest of Britain.

The Halifax house price index showed the average home cost £20,000, with new homes costing an average of £23,000. The annual rate of increase was 25.1 per cent in June, compared with 15.8 per cent last December.

The rate of increase was the highest since 1979, when a rate of 29 per cent was recorded.

Council tenants' rent arrears have increased by nearly 50 per cent in some areas after changes in housing benefit. April, according to a report published today by the Institute of Housing.

It says claims by the Government that the rise in arrears was caused by council rent rises are not true. Surveys in Leeds showed that 59 per cent of arrears were caused by the new regulations.

Asylum plea

A former Nigerian cabinet minister wanted in Nigeria on bribery charges applied before Bow Street magistrates at an extradition hearing yesterday. Mallam Ali Mchale, who is seeking political asylum in Britain, was remanded on £75,000 bail until September 1.

Food test saves a driver's licence

A cheese fondue and an apple mousse cooked by a Home Office forensic scientist enabled a man on a drink-driving charge to avoid losing his licence yesterday.

Magistrates at Abingdon, Oxfordshire, were told the Crown Prosecution Service had requested tests on the food after Mr Jean-Paul Jeral, a computer software consultant, claimed he had not been drinking. Mr Robin Cooper,

an analytical biochemist, said the tests on the dishes, cooked by Miss Heidi Zealey, a senior analyst at the Home Office forensic laboratory, showed that up to 80 per cent of the alcohol in the fondue would not have evaporated.

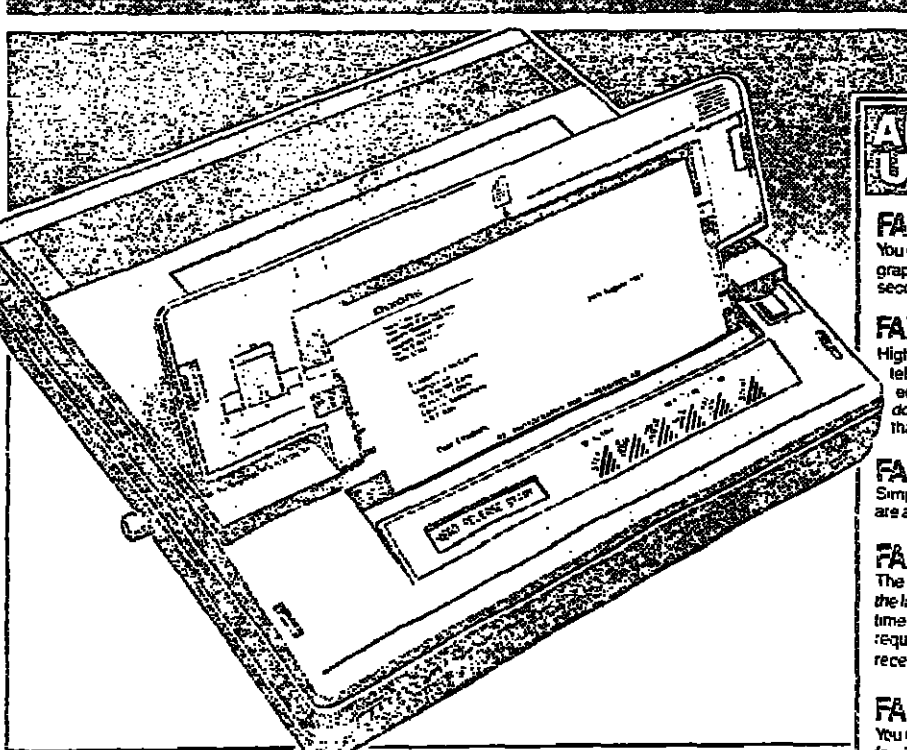
Mr Cooper said he calculated that the two dishes, which had been cooked with white wine, a liqueur and brandy, had added 33 units to the blood test reading, bringing the total

level of alcohol to 87 milligrams per 100 millilitres.

Mr Jeral was stopped by the police minutes after leaving the home of Mr Martin Schmidt of Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire. He was arrested after failing a breathalyser.

The magistrates agreed that Mr Jeral, of Clifton Hampden, could not have been expected to know how much alcohol was in the food. He was fined £200, with costs of £20.

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Mushroom taste test before buying

The Safeway stores are promoting some unusual varieties of mushrooms — with a chance to taste before buying them. Shiitake, also called forest or black mushrooms, cost £1.54 for a 4oz pack, oysters £1.12 for a 5oz pack and baby buttons 59p for a 4oz pack.

Salads are plentiful this week and there are many good buys. Hothouse tomatoes are down in price at between 25 and 45p a lb. Beef tomatoes 50-80p a lb and cherry tomatoes 60-90p a 1/2 lb. Cos and crisp lettuces are between 35-40p a head and iceberg 35-75p and English red varieties are between 40-75p a head. Crisp watercress is 30-40p a bunch and celery is between 35-55p a head.

English new crop potatoes from 9-12p a lb are a best buy and English baking potatoes at 25-35p a lb are also available. Sweet tender English carrots are 14-25p a lb, cauliflowers 35-60p each, superb courgettes 30-50p a lb and primo

cabbage are all top quality. English stick beans are 60p-£1 a lb but broad beans at 25-50p a lb are near the end of their season. English marrows are very cheap at 20-45p each and new season English leeks 50-70p a lb.

Cyprus seedless grapes and Thompson seedless and sultana grapes are good value from 50p-£1 a lb. Cyprus cardinal grapes 50-70p a lb are very sweet.

There is a superb selection of melons in the shops from 50p each. Nectarines from 10p each and peaches from 9p are abundant. Spanish Victoria plums at 50-75p a lb and French gage plums at 30-55p a lb are now available.

Home-produced lamb should be a little cheaper this weekend, particularly whole shoulder. Sainsbury's whole shoulder is down 40p a lb to 88p. The average price of whole leg is £1.91 a lb, but Tesco are selling it at £1.79 a lb and Asda at £1.49 a lb. Boned leg joints are at

between £2.80 and £3.40 a lb, but medallions are down in price to approximately £2 a lb.

Beef prices in many areas are up 1-3p a lb, but are surprisingly stable in the South-east. The average price of topside and silverside is £2.45 a lb and forequarter is £1.71 a lb. Fillet steak £5.22, rumpsteak £3.32 and boneless brisket £1.75. Beef mince at an average £1.29 a lb makes an excellent stand-by for quick meals. Pork is always good value even with the slight increases on rib and loin chops this week.

Storms at sea last weekend caused a hiccup in fresh fish supplies and prices were up early in the week, but prices and supplies should be stable by the weekend.

Herrings at 55p-£1.30 a lb, mackerel 38-90p and cod £1.60-£2.45 are all good value and lemon sole at an average £2.46 shows a drop of 13p on the average price.

Weekend food prices

Lambeth Conference: dealing with a thorny issue for African leaders

Bishops set conditions for baptism of polygamists

By Alan Wood

Polygamists and believing wives and children who wished to join the Anglican Church should be allowed to be baptised and confirmed, the Lambeth Conference decided yesterday at Canterbury.

The bishops were not making as significant a move as might appear because they were following what was already practised in some parts of Africa, as a result of approval by the dioceses, and also the 1973 decision of the Anglican Consultative Council. A century ago the 1888 Lambeth Conference took a very different view.

Yesterday's debate on the issue brought to the fore problems being faced now in Africa, involving the need to discipline those who were accepted into the Church and then took two or three or even more wives. It was pointed out that businessmen who became richer might wed several wives before seeking to join the church and accepting its gospel. Another determining

factor was the wealth of the bride.

However, yesterday's resolution set out the following clear-cut conditions that: ● the polygamist shall promise not to marry again as long as any of his wives at the time of his conversion are alive ● the receiving of such a polygamist has the consent of the local Anglican community ● such a polygamist shall not be compelled to put away any of his wives, on account of the social deprivation they would suffer.

The conference resolution on the issue that was carried also upheld monogamy as God's plan and as the ideal relationship of love between husband and wife.

The Right Rev Christopher Seayawa, Bishop of West Buganda, Uganda, successfully persuaded the conference to add to the resolution a proposal calling on provinces where the churches faced problems of polygamy to share information of their pastoral approach to Christians who become poly-

mists, so that the most appropriate way of disciplining and advising them could be found. The Anglican Consultative Council was also requested to facilitate the sharing of information.

The resolution was moved by The Right Rev George Njaguna, Bishop of Mount Kenya South, who said his father's mother was his grandfather's fourth wife. Polygamists were a small minority. Many were old and wished to become Christians. Polygamists had been advised by some Christians to send away all their wives except one if they wanted to be accepted into full membership of the Church. If they did that the wives and children would suffer unnecessarily.

The Most Rev Manasses Karia, Archbishop of Kenya, said past Lambeth conferences had stated that such people should be banned from becoming members of the church. Under the present resolution, such people would receive Christ and not be

forced to separate from their wives because of the social problems that would follow.

But Christians who took many wives should be disciplined because they had excommunicated themselves.

The Right Rev Akisofori Wesonga, Bishop of Mbale, Uganda, upholding the resolution, contended the Church must have one standard; Christ was one.

The Right Rev William Rukirande, Bishop of Kigezi, Uganda, wanted the resolution to say that those already married in church, once they married a second or third wife, should be excommunicated or disciplined. He said there was the difficult problem of those already in the faith who, as they got richer, married more wives and wanted to remain in the church.

Their request to remain was questioned by Christians who wanted a real Christian marriage. However he withdrew his proposition when the conference approved the amendment on the sharing of information of disciplining.

Aids 'offers lesson in faithfulness' African 'qualified' to succeed Runcie

By Ruth Gledhill

Aids is not a punishment inflicted on homosexuals and drug addicts by God, the former Bishop of Birmingham, the Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, said yesterday.

Addressing the Lambeth Wives' Conference in Canterbury, Bishop Montefiore said the Church had almost failed to grasp the "enormous opportunity" offered by Aids to teach faithfulness and emotional commitment in relationships.

He criticized recent television advertisements about Aids that "divorced sexual activity from love and affection".

The bishop, who is former chairman of the board for social responsibility of the General Synod of the Church of England, said: "It is no good trying to get people to change

their attitudes by fear. Here is an opportunity for positive teaching about the nature of love and affection."

He said many people in the developed world still thought the transmission of Aids was predominantly via homosexuals.

"Because of that, people have said it is the result of the wrath of God against homosexual practice. This view is not possible to sustain."

"We cannot say that God sends Aids as a punishment against fornication, prostitution or drug-taking. People may behave in a very promiscuous fashion and not be affected by Aids."

"Aids may be caused by contaminated blood in the most innocent way."

"It is not always easy for us to accept that there is an element of chance in life."

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, unexpectedly speculated on his successor yesterday when he specifically mentioned the Archbishop of Central Africa, the Most Rev Walter Makhele, as a qualified candidate.

He was talking on the record to journalists in the light of Wednesday's debate at the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury, which called for consultation with the other 26 Anglican primates before future Archbishops of Canterbury were appointed.

"There is a lot to be said for returning to a frequent custom in antiquity for archbishops to come from outside England", Dr Runcie said.

After suggesting that the diocese of Canterbury might be made smaller, to make the next Archbishop of Canterbury's job more manageable, he added: "I can think of a number of people, somebody like the Archbishop of Central Africa, who has been mentioned in all this speculation, and has had experience working in England. There are other people who have worked here in an English diocese."

The Archbishop of Central Africa received his theological education at the College of the Resurrection and St Andrew's College, Birmingham, and has a home in London.

One of the biggest barriers to the appointment of a non-British Archbishop of Canterbury would be the requirement that he should take an oath of loyalty to the Crown.

Dr Runcie indicated to the Lambeth Conference that he is unlikely to retire before his 70th birthday in October, 1991.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu speaking yesterday at the Lambeth conference.

Armed struggle 'last resort'

The conference adopted a statement which did not condemn those who engaged in "armed struggle," but drew attention to the dangers. Its preference was for non-violence, civil disobedience and conscientious objection and it paid tribute to those who had highlighted the growing threat of militarism.

An amendment from the Irish bishops which would have qualified their sympathy for those engaged in "just revolution," by limiting it to self-defence, was defeated.

The resolution reaffirmed the 1930 Lambeth Statement that war as a method of

settling international disputes was incompatible with the teaching and example of Christ. The bishops said that they understood those who "after exhausting all other ways, chose the way of armed struggle as the only way to justice, while drawing attention to the dangers and injustices possible in such action".

They preferred this to the original version, drawing attention to the danger of armed struggle "becoming an end in itself".

The Most Rev Desmond Tutu, Archbishop of Cape Town, said that in the resolution they were not asking the

conference to condone or condemn. They were saying there were people who would state: "We have tried everything."

The churches clearly said that violence was evil — the Church's traditional position — but acknowledged that there would be circumstances when in extending the "just war" theory they would extend it to a "just revolution" situation.

The Church was not pacifist. Many churches glorified war. All they were saying in the resolution was that they understood when people said that this was the last resort.

'Too little help for digs on road sites'

By Norman Hammond
Archaeology Correspondent

The Ministry of Transport has been "quite irresponsible" in its provision for archaeological rescue work on sites to be destroyed by new roads, according to a leading archaeological society.

Professor Thurstan Shaw, president of the Prehistoric Society, has called attention to what he terms the "inadequacy" of the ministry's provision and notes that it "contributed hardly anything" to rescue work on the Dorchester bypass, although the landowners, contractors, developers and English Heritage all helped.

The allegations come in Professor Shaw's introduction to a Prehistoric Society report, *Saving Our Prehistoric Heritage: Landscapes Under Threat*, which assesses the danger and proposes a five-year plan to combat it.

"The development of prehistory as a conservation issue of public concern is crucial to the future of British archaeology", the report says.

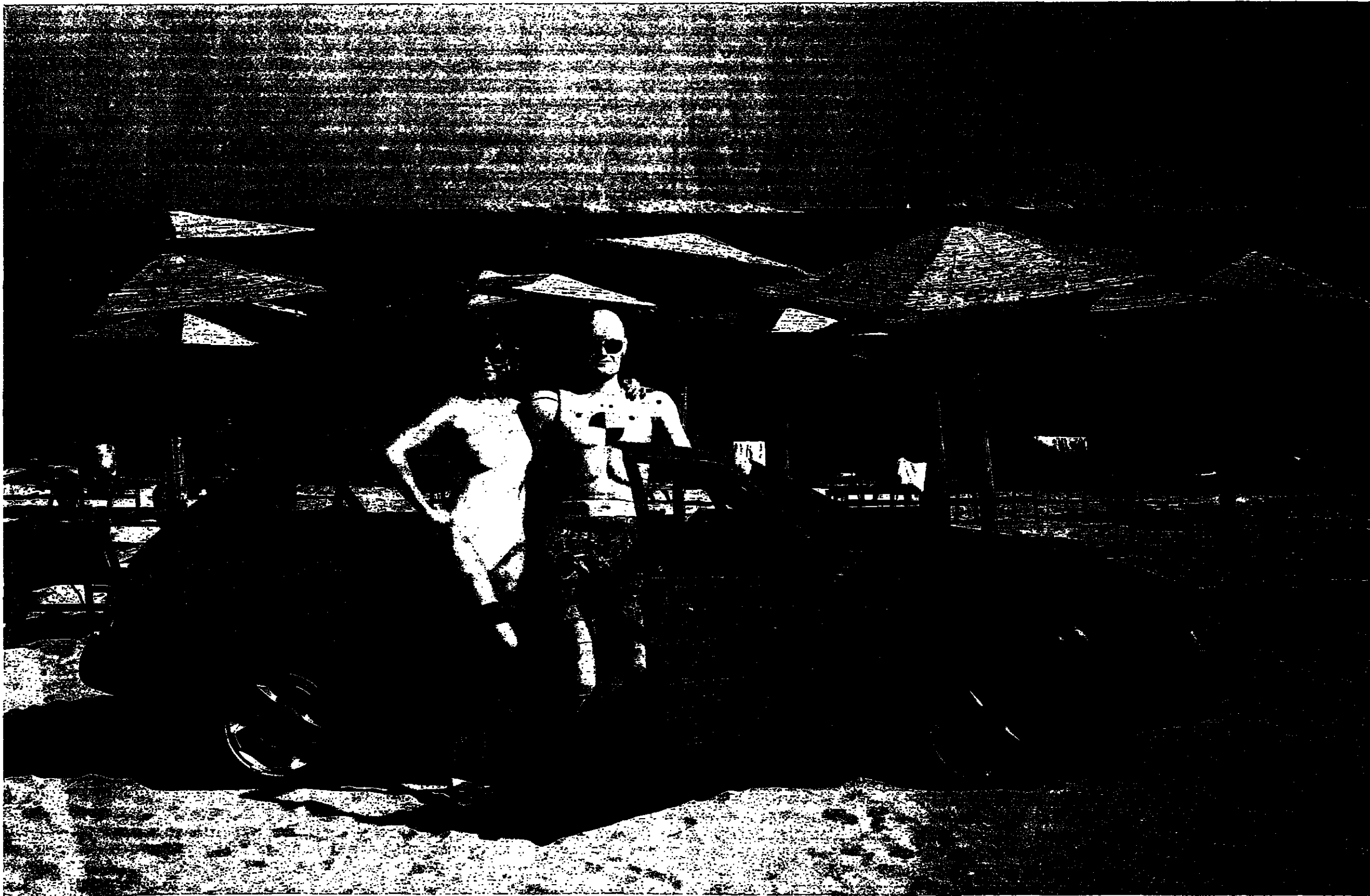
There is inadequate perception of the fact that prehistoric sites "represent the sole source of our knowledge concerning half a million years of human endeavour and achievement", and that "once destroyed or damaged this information is irreplaceable".

Agriculture and forestry, together with extractive industries such as gravel-digging and building developments, including roads, are a big threat.

The society suggests that legal and physical protection for them needs to be increased. It also suggests that the importance of maritime sites, including prehistoric shipwrecks, should be recognized by greater legal protection.

The society's document proposes arousing public awareness of both the threat to and the achievements of archaeology in the field.

Its plan includes construction of a national environmental and landscape data base, and funding especially of archaeology in upland areas, wetlands, areas with preserved land boundaries, and sites from the earliest occupation of Britain more than 100,000 years ago.



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Hong Kong's silent majority defy call to consult

From Chris Pomeroy
Hong Kong

The television advertisement shows a middle class couple with two fat-cheeked children against a blue sky harbour backdrop. The slogan is couched in the imperative: "Get Involved. Get to Know the Basic Law."

Yet midway through the summer long consultation exercise to weigh public feeling on how China is drafting Hong Kong's post-1997 Constitution, only 800 submissions have been received. Leaders on the China appointed consultation committee think the response is rather encouraging.

"Eight hundred so far is acceptable," said Mr Shiu Sin-Por, deputy Secretary-General of the Consultative Committee for the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, abbreviated less breathlessly to BLP. "No Constitution has ever been drafted in such a manner with such consultation," he adds.

Despite the document's manifest

importance, few people in Hong Kong can get excited about public consultation any more. "The silent majority have become so silent and so large," observes Mr Joseph Cheng, lecturer in government and public administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "Opinion is very much divided, which allows Peking and London to do very much what they want."

The political map has changed radically in the four years since Britain and China signed the Joint Declaration, the diplomatic agreement formalizing the transfer of sovereignty in 1997. Under the pressures of change and transition, political consensus has evaporated and political differences are often open and heated. To fill the breach, both the Hong Kong Government and Chinese officials have developed a new logic to the consultation process.

In the late 1970s, Hong Kong's non-elected Government turned public consultation into something of an art form. It pushed out policy position papers, clipped local newspapers, sounded out the

importance, few people in Hong Kong can get excited about public consultation any more. "The silent majority have become so silent and so large," observes Mr Joseph Cheng, lecturer in government and public administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "Opinion is very much divided, which allows Peking and London to do very much what they want."

Since 1984 the wind has blown, increasingly strongly, from the north and the public consultation process has metamorphosed to deal with what the civil service politicians call "actual conditions".

Earlier this year the Hong Kong Government held its most important consultation exercise to date: how quickly should Hong Kong move towards the democratic system of representative government as promised in the Joint Declaration?

In 1984, when Britain and China were still stitching up their diplomatic transfer deal for 1997, a Government White Paper noted that most people wanted universal franchise elections to the legislature to begin in 1988. China voiced loud disapproval. Britain took a pace back. "Convergence", ensuring changes in the run-up to 1997 did not pre-empt China's plans.

became the buzz word. This spring the Government concluded, after consultation and opinion polls, that public opinion was not unanimous and postponed partial elections until 1991, one year after China's draft Basic Law will be completed.

Professional pollsters criticized the Government's opinion polls for obscuring the key question of the 1988 date. One appointed legislator asked why the Government tried to "camouflage its retreat" from a commitment to democracy. "The Hong Kong Government badly needs some kind of fig leaf to demonstrate its policy has the support of the public," Mr Cheng commented. "These incidents very considerably damaged the Government's sincerity in soliciting the public's view."

The BLP secretariat appears to have refined colonial policy making procedures. As it does not recognize Hong Kong's elected municipal board, or the largely appointed legislature, members can only speak in a private capacity. No referendum or opinion

poll will be taken on China's draft Constitution. "It would not provide a balance," claims Mr Shiu.

"Polling techniques are only valid for a short period of time for finding out television habits or consumer preferences. Our law has 172 Articles and will take five years to draft, so a polling of opinion in three weeks on certain issues would not be very useful."

Meanwhile, a draft Constitution is already shrouded in controversy. Critics claim Hong Kong's judicial independence after 1997 is in doubt and the common law may be stifled by constitutional challenges. The relationship between China's central Government and the future Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government appears weighted in Peking's favour. Key civil rights, supposedly guaranteed in the Joint Declaration, are included only as locally enacted legislation capable of repeal at any time.

"Perhaps the best way to understand the real politics of the Basic Law is to read it backwards,"

comments Mr Denis Chang, QC, former head of the Bar Association, highlighting dissent over the first post-1997 Administration. Where the Joint Declaration promised an elected legislature, China, backed by a strong local business caucus, inclines towards a strong executive and weaker legislature mainly appointed by a special selection committee.

Despite the evaporating consensus, there is a heavy irony in the low response to the BLP. A similar exercise when the Joint Declaration was unveiled in 1984 attracted barely 1,800 submissions as Britain had warned Hong Kong the deal could not be redrafted.

The BLP's Mr Shiu insists there are still two more years to go before the Basic Law draft will be completed. Mr Cheng disagrees. "Peking's sincerity in consultation is certainly in doubt. People believe their views will not be seriously considered. If these are different from the vital interests of Peking and London we still will not get what we want."

Swedish leader denies Palme claims

From Christopher Mosey
Stockholm

Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish Prime Minister, yesterday confidently faced the toughest test of his political career when he testified before a public hearing on his Government's role in setting up a private inquiry into the assassination of his predecessor, Olof Palme.

Mr Carlsson denied that the Government had sanctioned the investigation by the socialist book publisher. Mr Ebbe Carlsson

He said he found suggestions that he had anything to hide concerning the investigation "deeply insulting", pointing out his close relationship with Mr Palme and his trust in Sweden's democratic systems. Mr Carlsson, speaking before the standing committee on the Constitution, a watchdog on power abuse that is known locally, with some hyperbole, as a Swedish equivalent of the US Senate hearings, hit back at his critics.

"I sanctioned nothing illegal," he said. "I don't see how we Social Democrats can be accused of being less concerned than others at seeing that justice is seen to be done in this country."

He promised that whoever was responsible for smuggling into Sweden illegal telephone tapping equipment as part of Mr Ebbe Carlsson's investigation would be brought to justice.

There could be no defence for such an act.

Mr Carlsson had asked to appear before the committee and obviously hoped that his performance, broadcast live on national television, would remove the "Ebbe Carlsson affair", as it is known here, as an issue in next month's general election.

He again staunchly defended Mrs Anna-Greta Leijon, the former Justice Minister, but criticized her for writing an introductory letter for Mr Ebbe Carlsson.

Mrs Leijon, who was forced to resign over the Ebbe Carlsson affair in June, also appeared before the committee yesterday, firmly denying that she sanctioned the investigation.

However, she admitted that she had made a mistake in writing the introductory letter, but said that she had paid for this with her resignation.

Ministers highlight failure of South African sanctions

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The combined effect of Commonwealth, EEC and United Nations measures has been to reduce South African exports to participating countries by 7 per cent, according to a report by a committee of foreign ministers, which met without British participation in Toronto to discuss South Africa.

Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the United States reduced their combined imports from \$3.39 billion (£1.99 billion) in 1985 to \$2.18 billion in 1987.

But the lost trade for South Africa was partly made up by other countries. Italy, Japan, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey and West Germany were among countries which imported more during the same period. Japan increased the value of its imports by 44 per cent. The increase was worth \$748 million. "We now know who is financing apartheid," Mr Luke Mwanashiku, the Zambian Foreign Minister, said. "Now we can attempt to persuade them not to."

Mr Joe Clark, the Canadian External Affairs Minister, added: "We are going to be speaking to a range of countries to have them follow the leads the Commonwealth has taken. Existing sanctions are not biting enough. We have to tighten them."

But the meeting failed to adopt significant additional sanctions, despite statements by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr Shridath Ramphal, that it had responsibility to keep the Commonwealth in the vanguard against apartheid.

The ministers agreed to press for an international ban on buying South African coal, the second largest export after diamonds. But it was in no position to make such a ban effective, because Britain and West Germany have argued against it and Japan is the largest importer.

Other measures adopted included stricter Customs scrutiny, more thorough investigations of sanctions violations, and heavier penalties for those violating sanctions. The ministers said they would study the possibility of widening existing sanctions on agricultural products. They would

also ask financial institutions not to increase trade financing to South Africa, and press Governments to prohibit new trade financing to South Africa.

Further evidence of the incompleteness of sanctions emerged at the Toronto meeting from an Oslo-based monitoring group. Mr Abdul Minty, director of the World Campaign Against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, said that, despite an international arms embargo South Africa was able to buy most of the weapons it needed abroad, with the exception of fighter planes. These purchases now probably exceeded the \$366 million it spent abroad on arms in 1983, he said.

The Commonwealth's first attempt to show that it can be effective even without British co-operation now seems to have achieved the opposite.

Geneva talks progress

Geneva - Negotiations here on a south-western Africa settlement have been extended today, with indications of some progress (Alan McGregor writes). No trace remains, it seems, of the indignation voiced by the Angolans and Cubans on Wednesday at South Africa's "tactics" in making public details of the proposal tabled by its delegation here on Tuesday.

Yesterday experts were discussing how the 14 principles for a settlement, agreed last month in New York, may be translated into treaty language. The Angolan-Cuban delegation has meanwhile put forward its own proposal, resembling the South African one, at least on troop withdrawals.

The Toronto meeting unintentionally demonstrated its irrelevance, in the view of observers. Its cautious and vague final statement is unlikely to alarm Pretoria, and barely managed to paper over differences between developed and developing nations.

As the ministers dispersed yesterday there was quiet satisfaction among Whitehall officials. Britain, which has never before boycotted a Commonwealth group, strongly opposed the formation of the committee but was outvoted at the heads of government conference in Vancouver last October.

Britain, which is South Africa's largest Commonwealth trading partner, mostly implements existing sanctions but refuses to approve new ones.

The Commonwealth committee consists of ministers from Canada, Australia, India, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Nigeria and Guyana, but was set up with the approval of all 48 countries except Britain.

Bishops' plea: A call to the South African Government to review its legislation on conscientious objection was carried yesterday by Anglican bishops attending the Lambeth conference being held in Canterbury.

Whites cry freedom, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Test of faith in the Jordan



An American member of the congregation of Mr Jimmy Swaggart, the television evangelist who recently was disgraced, being baptized in the Jordan.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Tehran resumes tanker attacks

Gunboats yesterday fired at a Norwegian supertanker in the Gulf, the first apparent breach of an undertaking given by Iran to suspend shipping attacks while peace talks continue at the United Nations (Andrew McEwen writes).

But neither the US Government nor local shipping experts interpreted the incident as a resumption of the "tanker war". Mr Vernon Walters, the US Ambassador to the UN, described it as "a case of excessive zeal by a local commander" and expressed optimism that a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq would be achieved.

The 284,505-tonne Berge Lord, bound for Rotterdam with a cargo of crude oil from the Saudi Arabian terminal at Ras Tanurah, was attacked by about six gunboats but no one was hurt. In another raid yesterday, Iraqi jets bombed oil centres 60 miles inside south-western Iran.

BAGHDAD: Iraq denied that its warplanes had dropped chemical bombs on an Iranian town (Reuters reports). The Iranian news agency had earlier said that the number of toxic gas casualties had risen to 1,700 after bombs were dropped by Iraqi jets on the Kurdish town of Oshnavieh.

Fire threatens resort

Belgrade (Reuters) - Aircraft and soldiers fought a forest and brush fire yesterday as it threatened to engulf the Yugoslav resort of Sibenik. Local radio called on citizens to join fire-fighting forces. About 100,000 tourists are in the area. One hotel official said the fire was about three miles away, and that they were prepared to evacuate holidaymakers.

TARRAGONA: More than 1,000 fire-fighters were called in early yesterday to tackle forest fires which have forced the evacuation of 7,000 people in this Spanish region.

Deal on Contra aid

Washington - Democrats in the Congress, after days of haggling, have agreed a compromise for humanitarian assistance to the Nicaraguan Contras, with military assistance specifically excluded except under narrowly restricted circumstances (Christopher Thomas writes).

The deal means that Governor Michael Dukakis, the Democratic presidential candidate, and Senator Lloyd Bentsen, his conservative running mate, will be able to avoid highlighting their sharp and potentially embarrassing differences over assistance for the Nicaraguan rebels.

One-child rule eased

Peking (AFP) - Peasants in most of China's provinces are now allowed to have a second child - but only if the first is a girl, a Family Planning Commission spokesman said yesterday. The second child must not be born within four years of the first, and if a girl, the family cannot have a third.

China, the world's most populous country with about 1.1 billion people, introduced the one-child rule in 1978. But the policy has been far from successful among the country's 800 million peasants, many of whom ignore it.

Another shuttle delay

Washington - A critical test firing of the main engines of the space shuttle Discovery was aborted yesterday because of technical problems a split second before the exercise was due to begin (Mohsin Ali writes). NASA has been struggling to get the manned space programme back on track after the Challenger shuttle disaster in 1986.

NASA said a computer reported a valve problem and shut off the engines just before they were to ignite at Cape Canaveral in Florida - the fifth engine test postponement in two weeks. Another attempt may be made on Sunday morning.

Legacy of the Greenpeace bombing haunts Rocard

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

In a curious twist of fate, the Rainbow Warrior scandal is again haunting a Socialist Government in France. At the centre of events this time is Alain Mafart, one of the two secret service agents convicted of blowing up the Greenpeace flagship in July, 1985, on the orders of the previous Socialist administration.

For the past fortnight in Paris, a senior official from New Zealand has been striving to persuade the new Government of M Michel Rocard to send Mafart back to the South Pacific atoll of Hao to complete the sentence he was meant to serve there.

According to sources on both sides, the high-level talks have been "extremely delicate" and an acceptable solution to the problem that has bedevilled relations between the countries is not in sight.

The repatriation of Mafart, who then held the rank of major, on questionable medical grounds last November to boost the presidential election campaign of M Jacques Chirac, then Prime Minister, outraged New Zealand. The departure of the other saboteur on Hao, Dominique Prieur, for Paris a few months later, officially because of her pregnancy, added fuel to the fire.

The authorities in Wellington insist that France cynically flouted the terms of the UN-sponsored agreement under which the two agents would be

held on Hao until June, 1989, unless both the governments agreed to their being moved. M Rocard appeared to take a similar view, denouncing M Chirac for "violating the promise France had given to New Zealand".

But today the same Greenpeace albatross is hanging around M Rocard's neck. With Wellington apparently resigned to "losing" Prieur, now five months pregnant, there is the greater determination to get Mafart back on Hao.

According to insiders, M Rocard - who, unlike M Chirac, gets on well with Mr David Lange, his opposite number in New Zealand - is ready to send Mafart packing.



Alain Mafart: Wrangle over returning him to atoll.

Le Monde reported that at a recent meeting between the two men, M Rocard spoke eloquently about the "honour of France" being at stake.

No such concerns are apparent, however, at the French Ministry of Defence, where there is said to be total opposition to giving way to pressure from Wellington.

Public opinion - as M Rocard well knows - was heavily in favour of M Chirac's unilateral decision to bring home the two agents. The French may have short political memories, but would they stomach a decision to "sacrifice" the loyal soldier Mafart a second time?

Holding the ring at the moment - with no great enthusiasm, one hears - is M Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister. A skilful negotiator, he is said to be trying hard to convince the New Zealanders of the difficulties facing the present administration without offending Mr Lange's understandable concern over his country's dignity.

The latest leak from the Quai d'Orsay suggests that M Dumas may be en route for New Zealand with some "favourable commercial proposals". If Wellington evinces what sources here call "a certain understanding" about the Mafart affair, France will play ball at the EEC over the thorny issue of New Zealand's agricultural imports.

Reshuffle in Tunisia Ben Ali sheds old guard

From Susan MacDonald, Tunis

The former President of Tunisia, Mr Habib Bourguiba, celebrated his 85th birthday this week without the pomp and ceremony that has surrounded the occasion for the last 30 years.

Mr Bourguiba - who, it is thought, could be a few years older than officially conceded - spent Wednesday quietly outside Tunis in the confines of the Mornag Palace. It has been placed at his disposal since he was removed from power last November - "like an over-ripe fruit" as one Tunisian commentator put it - while the man who took over as head of state, President Zine Ben Ali, continues to unclog the rusty machinery that he inherited from the Bourguiba regime.

With much fanfare, the Tunisian press has been heralding the events of the past week - including a big government reshuffle and a high-profile conference of the ruling party - as the beginning of a new democratic era. But to scratch beneath the surface shows how carefully President Ben Ali is proceeding along his democratic road.

The reshuffle, announced on the eve of the national party congress, is designed to reinforce the power of the President's own men while some of the old guard are gradually eased out. Three of the top men now are former Army generals: the President, the new Foreign Minister, Mr

Abdelhamid Escheikh; and the Interior Minister, Mr Habib Ammar.

An opening towards outside forces is shown by the appointment of two non-party ministers: Professor Saadane Zmerli as Minister of Health, and Mr Habib Boulares, a writer, as the new Culture Minister. The professor was president of the Tunisian Human Rights League, an organization persecuted under the Bourguiba regime.

Mr Ben Ali presided with his Prime Minister, Mr Hedi Baccouche, at the three days of soul-searching in the wilting heat among the vast gathering of the newly named Constitutional Democratic Rally party. The difference in style from the old days was immediately apparent. The two men appeared like chairman and managing director at a large shareholders' meeting. With protocol swept aside, they ploughed through the business of facing up to past mistakes and looking to the future.

However, despite assurances that he is President of all Tunisians, Mr Ben Ali made it clear that he will not, as some had hoped, separate his presidential role from that of head of the ruling party. Nor will he as yet fulfil his promise of last November to hold national elections in the near future. Instead, the President will make do with partial legislative elections, involving some 35 parliamentary seats, probably early next year. The present legislative term does not end until 1991, but the National Assembly is composed entirely of ruling party deputies, elected under fraudulent conditions in 1986.

Mr Ben Ali has launched the idea of a debate on a national pact for governing Tunisia at which all political and trade union organizations have been invited to participate. If discreet negotiations now taking place with the outlawed Islamic Fundamentalist Party (MTI) are successful, they too would be included.

The MTI, with a wide grassroots following, was the main threat in the last years of the Bourguiba regime. Its continued ability to preach against the regime in the mosques and organize public demonstrations - despite the hunting down and imprisonment of its leaders - proved its strength.

Now President Ben Ali has released the so-called moderate leaders in an attempt to bring them into the fold, while retaining those belonging to a military MTI wing.

Positive changes have yet to be translated into reality. Unemployment and rising prices remain the over-riding problems. Western observers feel that if the reforms are to filter through, the President must dismantle Tunisia's crippling bureaucracy and change the conditioned mentality of those in charge.

Hollywood cameras set to roll again as strike ends

From Iver Davis
Los Angeles

Hollywood is breathing a sigh of relief as one of its longest and most bitter strikes, which crippled the town and brought the film community to its knees, appears to be over.

After 150 days of on-again off-again negotiations, the Writers' Guild of America has finally reached a tentative agreement with the town's film producers to end a strike that had cost them millions of dollars in lost assignments.

During the bitter battle Hollywood was paralysed, actors sat idly by, and producers and writers were at each others' throats.

The 9,000-strong guild is expected to ratify the deal over the weekend and to be back at the film studios on Monday. The writers' walkout affected more than 200 film and TV producers, and led to the layoff of more than 20,000 employees in Hollywood, causing financial hardship to thousands of others.

It also forced the leading American TV networks, which produce shows such as *Dynasty*, *Dallas* and *Moonlighting*, to push back the start of their new season two to three months.

When the agreement is ratified by members - and that appears certain - Hollywood will again get into full gear to begin a new boom in film and TV production and catch up on time lost. Leading stars such as Peter Falk, Lou Gossett and Burt Reynolds

have been waiting for scripts to start their new shows.

The end of the strike came with such suddenness that even Hollywood was taken by surprise. Last week marathon talks had ended in deadlock again and the future looked bleak for a town that survives on the film and TV industry. The breakthrough came after an all-night bargaining session which resolved the seemingly intractable dispute over residuals to writers for shows sold overseas, which had been the biggest stumbling block.

Many striking writers believe they will not benefit as much as they had hoped when the strike began on March 7. One said: "We've lost a fortune over the past five months,

but sometimes you have to stand your ground on a matter of principle... this was a costly time for us, but if we had held out much longer it might have killed us all."

Brian Walton, the British-born chief writers' negotiator, said that the new contract was "enormously better than the one the producers had originally offered."

At a press conference after news of the settlement had been made public, he admitted that he expected some members to feel "some disappointment" with the deal after their long strike. "There were a lot of human reasons in the negotiators' decision (to settle)."

The time was right to make a deal," he said. But to the millions

deprived of their favourite shows, the final agreement probably means very little.

Under the current system, a writer's residual for a one-hour show is about \$16,000 (£9,400). Under the new system it could be as low as half that for a show with weak syndicated sales, or 50 per cent more for a hit.

On the expanding market for residuals, shows sold to foreign countries, writers won the right to choose during the contract life between the current system - which pays up to \$4,400 for a one-hour show - or a new formula which would pay 1.2 per cent of foreign sales as long as that was not less than 85 per cent or more than 130 per cent of the current residual fee.

Warning shots fired as wave of protest meets Burma curbs

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Burmese soldiers fired warning shots to control thousands of protesters in Rangoon yesterday, just 24 hours after the imposition of martial law.

Thousands gathered to protest against restrictions on freedom and a worsening in living standards, according to Western diplomats in the Burmese capital.

No casualties were reported but few details of the protests have yet filtered through the strict censorship.

The state radio broadcast announcements warning the public that martial law was in force and would remain so for an indefinite period. Effective action would be taken to prevent disturbances, the radio said.

The protests are directed at Burma's one-party political system and particularly at the new national leader, U Sein Lwin, the former general who has been in power for only one week. There were reports of the unrest spreading to other areas. Anti-government rallies have been reported in Mandalay, Moulmein and other urban areas.

A diplomat who witnessed yesterday's protests in Rangoon said there were about

10,000 in one group of demonstrators. They held up traffic near the Sula Pagoda in the city centre but dispersed after soldiers fired into the air. The Army appeared to be out in force, he said.

Many of the people on the streets were students, he said, but people of all ages had joined the protest. However, many citizens stood on the pavement, apparently too scared to step into the roadway with the demonstrators, he added.

Martial law has not been applied in Rangoon for 14 years. The authorities said it was enforced because local security units could not control the situation. It was probably also prompted by the nationwide strike and other protests planned for next Monday.

Universities and other places of higher education have been closed by the authorities for six weeks.

Diplomats say that if the campuses were open now a revolution might be inevitable.

Martial law has been in force in Proma, north of Rangoon, for three weeks.

The Government said the

situation there was out of control.

General Ne Win, the former leader, resigned two weeks ago after 26 years in power and was succeeded by his security chief, U Sein Lwin, aged 64.

His appointment immediately increased already serious civil unrest. He is chiefly blamed for years of repression and for the deaths of more than 200 people in riots in March and June.

The riot police, who are under his direct control, have been accused of raping, torturing and killing detainees. Their brutality has earned them the hatred of the Army and caused divisions within the previous Government.

U Sein Lwin's decision to use the Army in this martial law operation will be a severe test of its loyalty to the new regime.

The state radio yesterday denied reports in some Western newspapers that U Sein Lwin was wounded in an attempt on his life last Friday.

A few hours after the alleged assassination attempt security police arrested 11 prominent men who are being held for activities allegedly detrimental to the nation.

Happy landing for seaman



A Filipino seaman being helped from a helicopter in Fremantle, Western Australia, on his way to hospital after 29 days adrift on a life raft. He and five fellow crew survived on a biscuit and half a glass of water each a day, after their ship, the Singasi, broke up in heavy seas.

Malaysia power struggle

Mahathir survives but rivals prepare new poll offensive

From Gavin Bell, Kuala Lumpur

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian Prime Minister, has survived a bruising battle with political rivals and recalcitrant senior judges. But the power struggle is far from over and his opponents are massing for another attack in an important by-election this month.

The outcome will be crucial to Dr Mahathir's political future, and to the stability of the multiracial society he has governed with a firm hand for seven years.

The Prime Minister's troubles began last year when he faced an unprecedented challenge for the leadership of the ruling United Malays National Organisation from his then Trade and Industry Minister, Mr Razaleigh Hamzah. He won that contest by a narrow margin, but in February the party was declared illegal by the High Court on the ground that some of its branches were not properly registered.

Since then Dr Mahathir has reconstituted the organization by the simple expedient of adding the suffix Baru (new), but his leadership is being contested in the courts and at the polls. The embroglio has involved the suspension of the head of the Supreme Court and five of his colleagues for alleged "misbehaviour", the arrests of more than 40 dissidents, and discord between King Mahmood Iskandar and the state sultans from among whom he was elected for a five-year term.

The King, who is also the Sultan of Johore, is accused of being prominent in moves to subvert the judges' alleged political bias against the Government, and some of his brother sultans do not like this.

In a country where rumours are deemed to be true until proved otherwise, there have been persistent reports that some of the hereditary rulers have been agitating for the King to abdicate and emergency rule to be declared.

Neither seems likely, but the conflict has destroyed Malaysia's traditions of political compromise and of absolute loyalty to the chief. As a result, the danger of strife transcends politics and raises the spectre of racial tensions between the predominant Malay community and the minority Chinese and Indians.

Dr Mahathir has acted firmly to stifle dissent and to

reconstitute Malay political power under his new party banner, with limited success.

In the process, he has drawn criticism from international human rights and judicial organizations. A prominent critic is Mr Param Cumaraswamy, the immediate past president of Malaysia's Bar Council. "As a result of this rampage against the courts, we no longer have an independent judiciary," he said. "I think what we'll end up having is regime judges, a judiciary made to measure."

The essence of the complex struggle for power is that it is no more than that. There appears to be no significant differences over ideologies or policies. It is purely an issue of personal rivalry.

But there is considerably more at stake than Dr Mahathir's future. At risk is the ruling party itself, which is a moderate national movement, rather than just a political party. A permanent split would inevitably break it up into contentious factions and

Bangkok — General Chulchai Chomman, one of Thailand's most experienced politicians, was appointed Prime Minister last night, the first elected MP to hold the post for 12 years (Neil Kelly writes).

He was senior Deputy Prime Minister in the last Government. General Chulchai said he hoped to form a new coalition, which would include representatives of six parties, in the next day or two.

open the door to left-wing groups and racial and religious extremists.

The turmoil is viewed with concern in neighbouring Singapore, where an analyst said: "We are worried about events in Malaysia, since we depend on a stable government and a strong economy north of the causeway. Our interests are served by the continuing rule of Umno with moderate leaders at the helm, and a united Malay population behind them."

The political uncertainty has not so far affected the Malaysian economy, which is recovering from a recession in 1985. Gross domestic product is expected to grow by more than 6 per cent this year, compared with 4.7 per cent last year, putting the country back on track for its goal of becoming a newly industrialized economy by the end of the century.

The first important electoral test for Dr Mahathir's new party is on August 25 in Johore Bahru, capital of the southern Johore state. Mr Shahhir Samad, the former Welfare Minister and an outspoken critic of the Prime Minister, forced the by-election which he has held for three terms. He will now contest it as an independent.

He said this week it would be the first of a series of attempts to wrest power from Dr Mahathir. "The by-election is the only avenue left for bringing about change. It is just the first step, it will be followed by elections in other constituencies."



Dr Mahathir: Acted firmly to stifle dissent.

Chile deals blow to envoys' immunity

From A Correspondent, Santiago

The Chilean Supreme Court has ruled that two West German diplomats may be investigated in a criminal suit, arousing fears in embassies here that their diplomatic immunity may be in jeopardy.

The nation's highest court said that Herr Hans Ulrich Spohn and Herr Horst Krieger of the West German Consulate may be tried for "violating the rights of privacy" of a German resident living in the Colonia Dignidad community in the southern town of Parra.

The ruling brought near unanimous condemnation from foreign diplomats.

The West German Embassy sent a strongly worded protest note to the Chilean Government, expressing concern over the ruling, which "contradicts the Vienna Convention of 1961 guaranteeing diplomats immunity from prosecution."

"The objective is to know whether the Chilean Government is going to respect international law or not," Herr Dieter Haller, the West German Consul, said. "Any limits on our freedom to complete our work will be unfavourable to our relations."

The Chilean Government assured the diplomatic corps in statements released to the press that Chile will abide by the Vienna Convention, but the court ruling effectively exposes foreign diplomats to prosecution.

On Tuesday about all the ambassadors accredited in Santiago met at the Papal Nuncio's office in the city to discuss the situation. The Germans have asked the

United Nations to look into the matter.

Sources in the British Embassy said the case sets a precedent which hypothetically exposes all diplomats to possible prosecution by Chilean courts. Other diplomats hinted that the issue could develop into a conflict with the Chilean Government.

"Diplomatic immunity allows our mission here to be completed, and I do not believe any state would accept the loss of that immunity," the French Ambassador, M. François Mouton, said.

The conflict stems from the West German Government's investigation last May of the secretive Colonia Dignidad community in Parra. A delegation from the Embassy went to the colony to investigate reports of torture, sexual abuse and kidnapping against some of the 300 residents of the community who are German citizens.

Numerous ex-residents have described the mysterious camp-style relic from the Nazi era whose leader, Herr Paul Schiffer, holds members there against their will. According to Amnesty International and other human rights organizations the Chilean secret police also used the colony as a torture centre.

Herr Spohn and Herr Krieger are accused by the family of one colonist, Herr Jürgen Szargelles, after the diplomats inquired into his escape from the colony. The family say the inquiries violated their privacy.

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Credit account

Mr Richard Murphy, the US Assistant Secretary of State, accompanied by bodyguards, yesterday leaving the house of Dr Salim al-Hoss, Lebanon's acting Prime Minister. Mr Murphy arrived in Beirut unexpectedly after two days of Middle East peace talks in Geneva.

Initial Israeli reaction to this latest development was muted, with the Prime Minister's office dismissing it as

"What does it matter what the King does?" said Louis, an east Jerusalem pharmacist in

Fifty yards further on, leaning against a stone balustrade

A Palestinian journalist in east Jerusalem said: "It is not the younger people ... who are concerned about King Husain's intentions. It is the older ones, particularly the big farmers and industrialists, whose major markets lie in Jordan and the Arab states beyond, who are worried. They would be economically ruined if, for example, the King decided to place obstacles in the way of West Bank commerce."

He knows only too well that the social fabric of Beirut hangs by a very narrow thread. In west Beirut's largest police district, only two of the regular mobile street patrols can be maintained because the constabulary has run out of money to buy petrol for its armoured vehicles. The power stations supply

The infrastructure of local government is in pieces. Mr Samaha's department, for example, still has to pay the salaries of about 450

None has done so for 14 years.
Now Mr Samaha's city officials are levying fines against the speculators — £500 for every garage that

At first the refuse was deposited on the Normandie Beach near the port — until it drifted out to sea and washed up on the shores of Syria, Turkey and Cyprus. When a new dump was opened at Khalde, the refuse lorries broke down in the mud. Now the Lebanese are dumping again at Normandie Beach, yet

we get threatened," he said. "But we pay no attention. The law is the law." Up to a point. While we were talking, a young policeman reported that a fight had broken out between gamblers at a local casino. The commandant announced judiciously that he would probably call by to the scene of the crime on

There is no car insurance in Lebanon and most car theft victims still report the loss of their vehicles — if only to avoid arrest if they are used as car bombs. Beirut continues in this crippled fashion with few friends. "No-one has asked to be twinned with Beirut yet," Mr Samaha said. But he was laughing.

blow to community

...ent, Santiago

...lighted Nations to look into the matter

...Sources in the British Embassy said the case was a "deliberate" attempt to "publicly" expose all differences to the "public" prosecution of Chilean courts. Other diplomats stated that the case could develop into a conflict with the Chilean Government.

"Diplomatic immunity should be our mission here to be completed, and I do not believe my state would accept the loss of that immunity," the French ambassador, Mr. François de la Motte, said.

The conflict stems from the fact German Government's investigation last May of the "disappearance" of a Chilean Diplomat in Paralel 4 community in the investigation to the citizens to investigate the reports of torture, sexual abuse and kidnapping against some of the 300 residents of a community who are German citizens.

Numerous ex-residents are described the mysterious "disappearance" of the "disappearance-style" role from the Nazi who's leader, Herr Paul Schaffer, holds members that they will, according to community International and human rights organizations the Chilean government also used the police also used the court as a future court.

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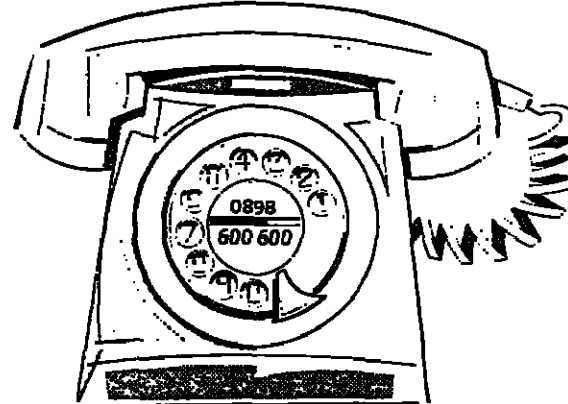
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SPECTRUM

Thrown by the rubbish heap

The streets of our cities are paved with rubbish despite the Litter Act, passed 30 years ago on Sunday.

Tom Bower wonders why we seem to be incapable of keeping Britain tidy

Among the unannounced benefits for future tourists speeding towards Paddington station from Heathrow airport on the proposed fast rail link will be a delayed introduction to the most rubbish-infested streets of Europe. The foreigners' respite will be temporary. London's streets, they will discover, like most British cities, are pockmarked by discarded newspapers, cigarette and sweet wrappers, dogs' excrement, mounds of split plastic bags dumped by shop owners, and the colourful debris of fast-food chains.

If by chance they talk to Elnaah Bissick, a 56-year-old Jamaican who has spent six years pushing a broom along the gutters in Soho, they will hear an exasperated explanation for the plague: "Throwing everything on to the streets is the way of life in England."

Although it is 30 years since the first legislation to punish litterers was passed by Parliament, conditions have indisputably worsened. Few complainants, however, blame the law, despite its obvious inadequacies. Rather, the responsibility for the filth is levelled at the failure of the police, local councils, and politicians. In turn, they blame British society's refusal to condemn the offenders as criminals. "Persuasion rather than law enforcement," the Home Office minister told Parliament, "is the solution". His answer reflected the Prime Minister's opinion that a change of society's attitudes rather than rigorous enforcement of laws is the exclusive panacea.

Two years ago, Mrs Thatcher publicly joined the sufferers and protesters. On her return from Jerusalem, the Prime Minister's Press office expostulated that she had found her drive from Heathrow to be a stomach-wrenching experience. Her instant solution was the appointment of Richard Branson to head UK2000, which was supposedly entrusted with the task of cleaning up Britain. Ever since, the tycoon has protested that, despite the hype, his real chore was to create employment, not to supplement the work of local councils. Yet for the first

time in recent history, public hygiene was no longer an issue reserved exclusively for cranks. "What has been so frustrating for us," comments Professor Graham Ashworth, the director general of the Tidy Britain Group (formerly Keep Britain Tidy), "is the lack of proper information about the subject. Because the rest of Europe does not behave like us, they have never had to find out why people are so resolutely dirty outside their homes."

Ashworth's assumptions go to the heart of the argument: Britain generally, compared with the rest of Europe, is arguably not very clean. Graffiti, vandalism, and shoddy workmanship are peculiarly British diseases which many suspect bear a direct relationship to littered streets. Symptomatically, dustmen in Britain are at the bottom of the social scale.

Britain enjoys the highest junk food consumption in Europe. Implicitly, those consumers reveal less interest in their personal health and are therefore less likely to care about cleanliness — hence the polystyrene packs on the pavements.

For many, the fast-food industry is the most evident villain but, not surprisingly, the industry itself is aggressively defensive: "We don't create the litter, it's the public," says Corryne Reed, the spokeswoman for McDonald's. The company does acknowledge that pavements strewn with cast-off McDonald's boxes are a "negative image". To remove that blot, McDonald's outlets dispatch "trash walkers", although their hunt is limited to the immediate vicinity and is exclusively concentrated on their own wrappers. Reed is coy about McDonald's expenditure on litter collection: "We don't need to throw out the amount we spend."

Julian Cockcock of Kentucky Fried Chicken was once more amenable: "We're doing a lot," he insists. His company has sponsored a litter campaign with prizes worth £2,000 — a limited but strategic investment for a business which enjoyed a £90 million turnover last year.

The new industry has, however, created a strange paradox. Unilaterally, the fast-food shops have



A load of old rubbish: Piccadilly Circus, one of London's most famous sites, with a coating of empty cans and waste paper

imposed upon their staff the most rigorous hygienic standards — considerably higher than the public health authorities or famous restaurants have ever demanded — yet what happens beyond their doors is universally of only philanthropic concern.

But even these token gestures are repulsed by the drinks manufacturers. Although Coca-Cola advertisements promote a clean life-style, Ian Muir, an executive with the company, says that "litter is caused by people and we feel no responsibility". Asked why the glitzy adverts could not also promote careful disposing of the can, Muir recites every other manufacturer's reaction: "We've no need to dissociate ourselves from the negative." Emphatically, Britain's drink industry is cool about two highly successful anti-litter initiatives in the United States.

Legislation in six States has fixed a compulsory 10 cent deposit on cans. Offering a guaranteed inducement for children and tramps has cleared New York's

streets forever of crumpled metal. But David Pritchard for Schwepes condemns the ruse as "demeaning" since it would "artificially" increase prices. In unison with other manufacturers, he argues that the shops would refuse to handle the empty cans just as they refused to handle returnable bottles — blaming the lack of space and administrative costs. "It's a disproportionate burden to everyone," Pritchard says. "And the rest of the rubbish is still there."

What truly reveals the industry's unwillingness to cure an evil of their own making is the reluctance to use a non-detachable ring-pull on cans. On pulling, the lid, still fixed to the can, goes inside the container instead of irretrievably on to the streets or into the grass. Muir of Coca-Cola was certain that it was unacceptable in Britain: "The consumer dislike it; ladies find it hard to open; and it is unhygienic because it goes into the drink." But Muir could not

satisfactorily explain why those disadvantages did not apply to the Coca-Cola Corporation in the United States, where the non-detachable ring-pull is practically standard.

The introduction of the environmental can in America was a victory won by pressure groups. Over 20 years Roger Powers, the director of Keep America Beautiful, has campaigned to "talk up the issue and to kill that attitude, 'It isn't mine so it's fine.'" America, with its "poop-scoopers" has certainly become cleaner. Cleanliness in British cities has meanwhile decreased.

The only professional investigation into Britain's sickness was carried out by the permanent Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution which in December 1985, specifically noted: "It is no exaggeration to say that many urban areas have a dirty, scruffy appearance." The commission blamed both public attitudes and the amateurism of waste collection. A visit to West Germany produced a list of recommenda-

tions that central government should direct local authorities to adopt: street bins should be regularly emptied; dustbins with fixed lids which are mechanically tipped into lorries should be used; to forestall the dustman creating more litter for the street cleaner; and the status of waste management should be enhanced.

To the commission's chagrin, the Department of Environment rejected the report. Pleading impotence and lack of funds, the government claimed that domestic rubbish was a local authority responsibility. For the experts, it was a cynical excuse, since the government has powers, under Section 4 of the 1983 Amendment to the Litter Act, to order councils to publish their plans for clearing litter in their area — a measure which would certainly compel improvements. Left-wing boroughs such as Camden Council, which now sweeps most residential streets barely once every month, would need to fulfil their prime and realistic tasks, to provide a litter-free borough.

Compulsion is the only panacea, according to Bill Coombes, Westminster City Council's area manager in Soho's "Chinatown", with 31 years service in the rubbish industry. Coombes, who laments his low professional status, blames the shopkeepers: "They just keep throwing their rubbish on to the pavements and there's nothing we can do." Round-the-clock collection in Westminster barely keeps pace with the outflow. "I warn the shopkeepers but they ignore me." Throughout his career, Coombes has heard of only one prosecution: "Ten years ago, a policeman took someone to court in St John's Wood. We all thought it was the start of something, but it never happened again."

Since the Litter Act was passed in 1958, only 14,000 people have been convicted nationally. Scotland Yard's spokesmen explained that their officers rarely prosecuted offenders because there are more important crimes to pursue.

To date, the cure relies on the efforts of dedicated mavericks like Lady Porter, the leader of London's Westminster Council, who has declared "a guerilla war against those who don't care". It was a measure of public indifference that even the reporting of her efforts prevented the image of an eccentric rather than a resolute campaigner. "Keeping London's streets clean," she said, "is a non-stop struggle and we need new measures." In March, with noticeable lack of popular support, Parliament granted the council powers to employ a 50-man force of plain clothes inspectors to tour central London issuing penalty tickets to unrepentant offenders. So far just one ticket has been issued but "hundreds of offenders have agreed to pick up their litter when approached by the warden," according to the council. If the punishment was as effective as the wheel clamp on illegal parking, the capital might look forward to cleaner times.

The business of getting Britain clean will be forever paralysed by tokenism, however well-intentioned. This week's appointment in Nottingham of a single litter warden at an annual salary of £7,500 bare little comparison, according to Ashworth, with the funds available for the causes of other major health risks: "I want a massive television campaign. If they can do it for Aids, they can do it for litter." Equating the two might seem far-fetched, until he mentions the cause of the fatal fire at the Bradford football stadium.

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Victims of prejudice

Why should seeking psychiatric treatment still be considered a handicap on the career ladder?

One of the most powerful men in the world admits to a medical history which includes bowel and skin cancer. The man after his job may or may not have been treated for depression after a bereavement in 1973 and a career disappointment 10 years ago.

Yet no one is making a scandal of whether President Ronald Reagan's age and fitness problems disqualify him for the job. However, the debate over Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis's alleged psychiatric treatment will not go away.

The suggestion being made by Dukakis's detractors is that depression is so shameful, that he is bound to deny it. But why does this prejudice persist?

One GP consultation in 15 is over some form of mental distress, and half of these involve depression or anxiety (the two are often linked). It is estimated that in a lifetime, one person in 25 will seek psychiatric treatment for depression, but these figures in no way reflect the true problem. Depression after an emotionally upsetting event is rightly regarded as a normal reaction, and many people do

not bother to seek help for it.

Madeleine McGill, a psychologist who counsels executives who have been made redundant, is concerned that so much is being made of Dukakis's depression. "Sadness of some kind is the commonest reason for seeking psychotherapy — a one-to-one treatment involving the client and the counsellor. It usually involves feelings over a loved one, whether because of bereavement, or because of feelings of confusion about relationships. It is perfectly normal to feel depressed after some sad event in our lives."

Despite the normality of



Keeping his head: presidential contender Michael Dukakis

depression, the outside world is still prejudiced, says Chris Lewis, an occupational psychologist at North East London Polytechnic. "Although people are more tolerant than they were if their

next door neighbour suffers from a depressive illness, they revert to their original prejudices if it is someone who may have control over their lives, such as a politician."

However, Lewis says, there

is no reason why depression following an emotional event should disqualify anyone from a job. In this country, job applicants are asked to disclose any major health problems. Treatment for minor depression would not qualify. However, if a candidate failed to disclose a major problem, such as a manic depressive illness, then this could later become grounds for dismissal.

Although psychological testing is becoming much more common, most of it is designed to probe personality and attitudes rather than mental stability. Some would-be employers do write to an applicant's GP asking for details of the medical history. It seems unlikely, however, that the average family doctor would disclose a treatment which was over and done with many years earlier.

Lewis stresses that treatment for the kind of temporary depression which follows a bereavement or other

upsetting event does not disqualify anyone for office. "In fact you can argue that people who seek help for their depression are showing responsibility for their own health, and insight into the fact that they do have problems."

Unfortunately, given a choice between a politician who has had treatment for a psychiatric problem and a politician who hasn't, people choose the one who hasn't. And I imagine it would be the same in Britain.

But there are signs that the stigma surrounding a normal human reaction is beginning to fade — at least for those who can afford the £25 to £50 fees for a single session with a psychotherapist. Even relatively short periods of therapy involve attending once a week for about six months.

David Malan, a retired NHS psychotherapist now in

private practice, says most of his patients do not feel ashamed about seeking treatment. "The people who seek psychotherapy tend to be better educated, and they don't seem to mind telling their friends that they are getting help."

But the picture can be different for people who cannot afford the fees, and who face a less sophisticated reaction from their friends.

"People don't like admitting that they have had psychiatric treatment because public attitudes are still so prejudiced," says Chris Heginbotham, director of MIND. "A lot of people don't understand that mental illness, like any other brief illness, can be cured. Twenty years ago, no one would admit to having had cancer treatment. Now plenty of public figures are prepared to stand up and talk about it."

Ann Kent

SCIENCE REPORT

When seaweed ruled

A group of well-preserved fossils discovered recently in an Arctic archipelago paints a fascinating picture of marine life more than 700 million years ago. And the discovery of fossils of only very simple life forms from that period fuels a long-standing debate on how and why all the major groups of multicellular animals appeared not much later.

The new fossils, described in *Nature* this week, are of bacteria, primitive seaweeds and single-celled animals and plants, with no trace of multicellular animals. But just 100 million years later — a short period in geological terms — the seas were filled with many complex forms such as worms and shellfish. Researchers are still at a loss to explain this sudden flowering of multicellular life in the Cambrian period, between about 600 and 500 million years ago.

The new fossils show in exquisite detail what life was like on the ancient seabed: they show seaweeds and remains of blue-green algae — among the most ancient of living organisms. Studying the fossils are Professor Andrew Knoll from the Botanical Museum at Harvard University and his colleagues at the

University of Iowa. They find that the seaweeds are similar to the green seaweeds still alive today, such as the familiar "sea lettuce" *Ulva*.

Imprinted into the rock are strange tendrils that may have anchored the seaweeds to the seabed. Even more intriguing are impressions of long tubular filaments emerging from sack-like structures. These could be microbes caught in the act of germinating from cysts in which they had been dormant. And there are geological snapshots of bacteria clumped around organic detritus, which show that the bacteria behaved like modern decay bacteria.

But the absence of fossils of any animals or plants more advanced than seaweeds prompts researchers to ask how, not much later, the seas were so full of organisms vastly more complicated and diverse. In Australian rocks about 600 million years old, for example, there are impressions of multicellular jellyfish. So between 700 and 600 million years ago, the pace of evolution must have rocketed.

Between 500 and 600 million years ago, in the early Cambrian period, the seas were populated by a bizarre

selection of creatures. This sudden and unique appearance of about 100 major groups of complex animal forms, known as the "Cambrian Explosion", is a continuing puzzle. And why it happened in the Cambrian period rather than at any other time is also unknown.

One explanation hinges on climate. Before the Cambrian period was a series of intense ice ages. And the last series, which is still continuing, has intensified the evolutionary progress of many animals. So perhaps the pre-Cambrian ice ages did the same.

But other environmental effects must also be considered: in the early Cambrian period, a huge continent was breaking up, which resulted in the deposition of organic matter in great sedimentary basins. This may have changed the atmosphere, increasing the previously small quantities of oxygen to levels sufficiently high to support large, complex animals. How the various environmental influences may have combined to bring on the Cambrian explosion is still unclear. But the discovery of the fossils from the Arctic is sure to intensify the debate.

Henry Gee

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Beehive houses: in one town of Apulia over 1,000 of these strange built dwellings

End of the road

Apulia is the high heel of Italy's boot, the peninsula on the peninsula, a place others regard as a world apart: the Romans erected two vast columns there, at Brindisi, to mark the end of the Apennine Way. But it was also a way in, and the maritime traffic passing through its ports has created across the centuries a richly bewildering cultural mix — down there, even the language is different

New HIGHER investment rates from the Cheshire, from 8th August 1988

SUPER SHARE PLUS	NET ANNUAL INTEREST (C.A.R.)*	NET MONTHLY INTEREST (Min investment £2000)	GROSS EQUIVALENT (C.A.R.)*
£30,000+	8.00%	7.72%	10.67%
£10,000+	7.60%	7.35%	10.13%
£5,000+	7.30%	7.07%	9.73%
£500+	6.80%	6.60%	9.07%
£1+	5.00%	—	6.67%

CAPITAL PLUS SPECIAL ISSUE	NET ANNUAL INTEREST (C.A.R.)*	NET MONTHLY INTEREST (Min investment £2000)	GROSS EQUIVALENT (C.A.R.)*
£10,000-£24,999	8.25%	—	11.00%
£25,000+	8.65%	—	11.53%

* Compound Annual Rate (C.A.R.) when monthly interest is left to accumulate in the account.

† Assuming tax is paid at basic rate.

The rate of interest on all other investments and Deposit Accounts (except S.A.V.E.) will be increased by 1.25%.

Available to tax exempt organisations and those not ordinarily resident in the UK for tax purposes.

SUPER SHARE INTERNATIONAL AND TREASURERS ACCOUNT	GROSS RATE
£30,000+	10.40%
£10,000+	9.90%
£5,000+	9.50%
£500+	8.85%
£1+	6.50%

MORTGAGE RATE
The basic rate of interest charged on existing mortgages for owner occupier borrowers will be 11.25% from 8th August 1988 or at a later date subject to the terms of the mortgage deed.

Cheshire
BUILDING SOCIETY
Chief Office, Castle Street,
Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 6AH.

هكذا من الضحك



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

NO HURRY TO DISARM

The timing of the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee report on arms control, the day after Matthias Rust was freed in Moscow, was almost too good to be true. Few developments were so well calculated to colour Western perceptions of the Soviet Union as the release of Herr Rust after 14 months of a four-year prison sentence.

For political as well as personal reasons, one must welcome Mr Gorbachov's act of clemency. The timing was doubtless a gesture to the West German Foreign Minister, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher who has just completed a visit to Moscow, and it will strengthen Soviet-West German relations in advance of Chancellor Kohl's trip in October. Bonn's leading role in Europe and in Nato give this a significance far beyond the borders of the Federal Republic.

But would any 20-year-old Russian who flew into Parliament Square or Central Park on a so-called "mission of peace" have been jailed for four years in the first place? The sentence he received, and now the young man's overdue release, might be seen as political instruments of détente.

So too might the INF Treaty and the other negotiations covered by the Commons study. On the one hand they represent progress in a continent which for many years knew none. On the other, they have to be judged in a wider context.

The treaty itself by removing all medium-range nuclear missiles from East and West Europe, in fact creates more problems than it solves. The American cruise and Pershing 2 missiles which are now to be dismantled, were installed only partly as a response to the Soviet SS-20. They were also meant to strengthen the coupling between the United States and Europe and to provide a further link in the chain of nuclear responses, between the short-range munitions on the battlefield and the strategic missiles based either in America or at sea. They were intended to reassure Western Europe, whose conventional forces were so

inferior to those of the Warsaw Pact. Now the euphoria of the INF Treaty has died down, the West is left with these same problems it had 10 years ago.

Western reaction to Mr Gorbachov swings from eulogy one moment, to dark mistrust the next. In fact he deserves neither response. By Russian standards he is certainly a pragmatist, committed to reform of the Soviet system and to making the motherland more efficient and habitable. The reduction of military spending and the diversion of funds to help civilian industry, is one of Mr Gorbachov's priorities.

But differing ideologies as well as ancient rivalries and fears, continue to divide Europe. The Soviet record on human rights, while getting better, remains a source of friction and a barrier to mutual understanding. To dismantle a security framework which has been painfully and expensively built, at the very first signs of détente, makes little sense. Disarmament is a desirable objective. But over-hasty progress, prompted by instant assessments of the Kremlin, can easily lead to allied disunity and angst.

Not the least of the difficulties which Nato is now facing, concerns defence spending. Even after the London summit of 1977, at which Nato governments committed themselves to a 3 per cent annual rise in military budgets, very few of the member nations reached their targets. Now, with the INF Treaty signed, the negotiations well-advanced on strategic arms and talks about talks under way on conventional forces, Nato's West German Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, has an unenviable job in keeping the alliance up to scratch. Improvements in conventional forces, the modernization of nuclear weapons and the presentation of arms control positions to Western electorates, will all pose problems. An alliance which has unilaterally disarmed, will find it hard to persuade another to do the same.

No doubt Herr Rust meant well. But as the MPs' report suggests the real route to lasting peace is necessarily slow.

PROPAGANDA OR DIPLOMACY

Sir Sridath Ramphal gave the game away this week when he emerged from the Toronto meeting of a committee of Commonwealth foreign ministers to trade jeers with Mrs Thatcher. The Prime Minister's contention that sanctions against South Africa simply impoverished black South Africans, was, he said, typical of South African propaganda which the committee had resolved to counter through a campaign of its own.

To believe that Mrs Thatcher is a victim of anything but her own convictions would seem, at best, eccentric, but it is no less bizarre than the Commonwealth Secretary-General's twin and contradictory beliefs that black South Africans do not suffer from sanctions but are prepared to do so in the name of liberation.

The facts, assembled not by Pretoria or by any of its dupes as might lurk in Downing Street, but by organizations of such resolute independence as the Investor Responsibility Research Centre in Washington, suggest otherwise.

In a recent analysis of all the opinion polls conducted among black South Africans in recent years, the IRRIC found that the results were consistent, irrespective of who conducted the survey. Despite Archbishop Desmond Tutu's best efforts to convince them and the world otherwise, 76 per cent of black South Africans said no, and continue to say no, to sanctions and disinvestment because of the economic sacrifice involved.

The IRRIC has also found that the flight of American companies from South Africa, far from eroding apartheid, had "contributed to a consolidation of economic power by South Africa's whites", had meant the loss of corporate contributions to groups challenging South Africa's apartheid policies and had had grim consequences for black employees and their communities.

But the perverse effects of sanctions are not restricted to South Africa's black population. A recent survey by the South African Institute of International Affairs, which is no supporter of

Pretoria, found that far from persuading white South Africans of the error of their ways sanctions had swung them into an uncompromisingly hardline stance on both foreign policy and domestic issues.

Sir Sridath Ramphal and the Commonwealth committee charged with monitoring and tightening sanctions against South Africa are right to be alarmed by the effects of their handiwork, but to attempt to denigrate the facts, however unpleasant, as South African propaganda is simply to heighten the pervasive atmosphere of cynicism and unreality which surrounds the whole sanctions industry.

There are, however, two ways of dealing with South Africa and both were on display this week. While Sir Sridath and the eight Commonwealth Foreign Ministers were earning the Prime Minister's contempt by "deciding in five-star hotels that there should be poverty and starvation by a large number of black people", the United States, Cuba and Angola were engaging the South African Government in an exercise of patient diplomacy which may yet bring peace to Angola and an international settlement to Namibia.

Despite the rather obvious ploy by the South African Foreign Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, to gain the moral high ground by unilaterally disclosing South Africa's own peace offer — summarily rejected by the Cubans and Angolans — there is a growing belief in Whitehall and Washington that the rival positions are neither immutable nor irreconcilable. To suggest — as some have done — that Mrs Thatcher should ignore the quiet example of Geneva, abandon whatever influence she retains with Pretoria and instead embrace the example of Toronto simply because it may be impolitic of her to stand alone is not merely to elevate hypocrisy and pusillanimity to the level of foreign policy. It is to ask her to choose propaganda above facts and the certainty of conflict and deprivation in southern Africa above the chance of peace.

PARENT POWER

It is not going to be easy when parent power comes to schools in England and Wales. Parents will be obstructive when it comes to closing schools their own children attend, obstinate when places are refused to their children they are convinced deserve them, and critical of lessons they feel usurp their natural authority.

The Education Reform Act insists, among other things, that there is a moral content to sex-education lessons, gives a premium to parental choice in schools and offers real power to parents who wish to serve on the new governing bodies which reduce local authority influence. The problems that will face the schools in September when they come to grips with the practical effects of these changes were crystallized in three reports this week.

The Act, coupled with other legislation, is part of the Government's aim to remind parents of their duty to instil in their children a sense of social responsibility in dealing with the problems of the 1980s ranging from racial violence to the spread of Aids, from racial prejudice to sex education. A report from Her Majesty's School Inspectors shows just how ill-prepared the heads, teachers and governors are to take on this extra burden.

Teachers are not properly trained, and parents and school governors are not being consulted sufficiently in the preparation of the courses which will have to be improved. The considerably if they are to have any value. The responsibility for making the courses work to rest with the head teachers who will have to juggle the priority they give to social lessons with the demands of the national curriculum. They would do well to remember that social lessons cover sensitive and controversial issues and would be making a mistake if they automatically put them at the foot of the list.

So the Department of Education and Science is going to have to give proper consideration as to how these lessons, to which Parliament attaches such importance, are provided.

On a second front officials of the department will have to smarten up their ideas on falling school rolls and the question of school closures. The argument between parental choice and getting value for money by closing small ineffective and wasteful schools must now be faced. The prevarication has gone on too long.

The independent Audit Commission, in its second report on falling school rolls, says that empty school places are still costing the country £250 million a year while local education authorities fail to provide the country with an adequate educational service. The delay in reaching closure decisions as the papers lie stuck in the Department of Education leads to some schools dying on their feet. The bureaucratic excuse that each closure must be considered carefully to avoid legal challenge is no longer good enough.

But all the good intentions, all the necessary reforms in giving the schools back to the parents will fail if too few of them come forward to serve on the new bodies. The first elections of parent governors will take place in the first week of September. A Labour Party survey of local authorities published yesterday indicated that one third were finding it difficult in recruiting parents as governors. There is still time for more parents to volunteer. Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, who is just coming to the end of a working holiday on the Nile must spend the remainder of the summer break ensuring that parent power does not founder on the rock of bureaucratic obduracy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Controversy over animal organ transplants

From Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, MP for Newbury (Conservative)
Sir, As a kidney patient on dialysis but cleared for a transplant I must express my extreme repugnance at the suggestion that animal organs should be used in transplant surgery. I welcome the BMA's statement (report, August 2) that the ethics of such experiments raise profound questions about the integrity of human tissue.

Ethically I can accept dialysis as I can any other life-giving equipment because the body remains intact. I can just accept the idea of receiving a human organ as the gift of life willingly passed on from one person to another. But to take organs from animals arbitrarily and put them in place of failed parts of a human body is to delve into the realms of Frankensteinian science.

Speaking only for myself, if the organ I may be offered one day as a transplant for my failed kidneys is not a gift and not of human tissue I want no part of it. If that means I will never have a transplant so be it.

I want to go to my grave as a complete human being — not part man and part pig. The length of my life is infinitely less important to me than preserving the integrity and sanctity of my human body. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL MCNAIR-WILSON, House of Commons, August 1.

From Father Peter D. McGuire
Sir, The apparently premature release of information about the proposed increase in the use of animal organs for human transplant surgery has, nevertheless, brought to the surface the protest of "animal rights" groups.

The outcry against such use must be contrasted with the generally favourable reception given to recent news about the use of warm foetal brain tissue for the relief of Parkinson's disease, and the prospects of human embryo experimentation for the culture of tissue for transplantation.

Whilst having respect for animals and demanding their humane treatment up to, and including, their slaughter for the benefit of mankind, I cannot accept the implication behind the protests which may be summed up

as: a born pig has more value than an unborn human being. Yours sincerely, PETER D. MCGUIRE, 9 Castle Hill, Eickington, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

From Mr G. F. Newman
Sir, Your leading article, "Horizontal humans" (August 2) was striving so hard for reason and balance that it missed some very important points, and left a clear scientific bias. Such a position is your privilege, but the use of language is, one suspects, intentionally deceptive rather than woefully ignorant.

The use of the word "break-through" in such circumstances suggests some beneficial advance here. "Setback" more accurately describes the situation. For any sort of heart transplant takes us further away from a healthy heart and fosters the dangerous "break-down service" mentality towards our bodies.

Even if the moral, ethical, emotional and spiritual objections could be reasoned out of existence, the practical objections are overwhelming. If we had all the transplant surgeons working full-time, and assuming that we had enough donors of hearts, lungs, kidneys, livers (and soon brains or bodies), there wouldn't be enough surgeons, operating theatres or hours in the day to get through the lists of people suitable for spare-part surgery. Logic tells us there must be another way.

There is, firstly, not to let the heart get into such a mess; secondly, to pull it back from the brink by a regime of diet, exercise, relaxation. To have scientists with huge career investments in high technology tell us otherwise is blatant dishonesty.

Yours faithfully, G. F. NEWMAN, Westington Court, Woolhope, Herefordshire.

From Dr Robert Sharpe
Sir, There are three main objections to the "cross-species" transplants planned by the Dulwich Hospital team. Firstly, the initial experiments will inevitably involve suffering and death to many animals even though, as past transplant research has shown, results can prove seriously misleading for humans.

The situation is surely little different from that in industry, except perhaps the pay. The general manager of any go-ahead expanding company constantly faces similar pressures, and must strike a productive balance between stability and change.

The general manager in the NHS is accountable to his chairman. With a complementary duo, strong and effective leadership of the kaleidoscope of local health services can be achieved: to the benefit, I strongly suggest, of the public they serve, both in sickness and in health.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER PAINE, Dame Alice Farm, Watlington, Oxfordshire, July 29.

Threat to Stamford

From Dame Penelope Jessel
Sir, Those of us who know, and delight in the historic town of Stamford are appalled to learn of the "resurrected" scheme for a by-pass against whose siting Professor Curi (July 27) argues with such authority. To inflict such a gash across one of the most marvellous transitions from country into town would be vandalism of a prime order.

But there could be even worse to come were the by-pass to go ahead. In Oxford and Oxfordshire, beset as we are by road plans, we know too well the effects such roads may have. Enormous and almost irresistible pressure builds up for development along their lines, whether for superstores, industrial use or housing. The volume of traffic generated as a result may then lead to demands for further relief roads — a kind of by-pass to a by-pass.

The crucial point, however, is that it must be recognised that towns like Stamford are no ordinary settlements and cannot be treated as such. Historic towns need special consideration: the utmost sensitivity should be applied in considering any scheme which may affect their rare qualities.

Yours faithfully, PENNELOPE JESSEL, The Cottage, The Green, Cassington, Oxford.

Back in the fold

From Canon Gervase W. Markham
Sir, I was interested to read Mrs Battistini's letter (July 27). The walls of Morland parish church, in the Eden Valley, bear two, contrasting tablets. One records the names of 16 men killed in the Great War of 1914-18. The other reads as follows:

This tablet given by the parishioners Records their Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the safe return from the War of 1939-1945 of all their Men and Women (over 60 in number) and of the preservation from damage of this Church and Parish.

Every year on Remembrance Sunday one of the survivors of this dwindling group takes his turn to hang a wreath on the tablet of the First War, and then stands before

Secondly, cross-species transplants are being contemplated because of a lack of human donors. It is this problem which needs to be solved rather than embarking on new, costly and painful animal research which in the past has failed so dismally.

Finally, by devoting so much attention to transplants, the effect is to downgrade the importance of preventive medicine. A co-ordinated and well-resourced programme based upon prevention would obviate the need for so many transplants and allow those still in need to receive human organs. Although prevention is known to be the most effective approach, it is denied the glamour and news worthiness of transplant surgery.

Once again a speculative animal research programme will divert public attention and resources away from our real health priorities. As a result both humans and animals continue to suffer needlessly.

Yours faithfully, R. SHARPE (Scientific adviser), British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, 16a Crane Grove, N7.

From Mrs M. D. Pooley
Sir, Scientists are now preparing to transplant both organs and genes between man and animals. In the US they have been able to patent a new type of animal with human genes (report, June 6).

Will the time come, one wonders when, for patent purposes, scientists will have to decide whether a creation is either man or animal? Will the Church at last be forced to step in to arbitrate?

Yours faithfully, M. D. POOLEY, Laureston Cottage, Crawley Ridge, Camberley, Surrey.

From Dr S. P. Bate
Sir, So, Orwell has done it again. I quote the final sentence of *Animal Farm*:

The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again: but already it was impossible to say which was which.

Yours faithfully, PAUL BATE, 7 Lee Crescent, Sutton Benger, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

GCSE standards

From Miss Kirsty Woodard
Sir, I read with growing annoyance the letter of Miss Clare Oliver (July 30) concerning the GCSE 1, and many others who took the O level at school are fed up with the assumption that real work was "something previous O-level candidates only really experienced during the last two weeks before the exams".

Miss Oliver seems to assume that two years' notes can be written up in two weeks and two years' work can be learnt in two weeks, and that for a year and a half all O-level candidates and their teachers sat in their classrooms throwing paper aeroplanes.

If the O levels were as easy as Miss Oliver implies, 100 per cent pass rates should have been achieved.

I suggest that the GCSE candidates should cease to complain about the O levels until they have written five essays in 2½ hours as in an O level and not two in two hours.

Yours faithfully, KIRSTY WOODARD, 5 Ruskin Grove, Temple Hill, Dartford, Kent.

From Miss Tansy Bruce
Sir, As a fairly recent O-level candidate, I should like to point out, in response to Miss Clare Oliver's letter, that we studied for perhaps a little more than two weeks before each exam.

I am sure it is true that there were disadvantages to the old system; but possibly the more rigid choice of literature was on our side when it came to grappling with the idiosyncrasies of English grammar, punctuation and syntax. Yours faithfully, TANSY BRUCE, 28 Seagry Road, Wanstead, E11, July 31.

Carnival dispute

From the Deputy Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council
Sir, May I correct an erroneous impression that might have been given in your News Roundup item on the Notting Hill carnival today (August 3), particularly as a result of the bizarre quote in it from the chairman of the environment committee of Westminster City Council.

This council, in not issuing permits for street trading during the carnival, is doing exactly what it has done in every previous year. We were asked by the police this year to investigate the possibility of introducing a licensing system. We did so, and concluded that it would be a difficult but possible task, provided that we had the agreement of the carnival arts committee. Unfortunately, this agreement has not been forthcoming to any scheme which the council could properly operate.

Yours faithfully, GERALD GORDON, Deputy Leader of the Council, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Town Hall, Kensington, W8, August 3.

On the run

From Mrs Roger Parker-Jervis
Sir, Sign of the times: we observed recently at the side of a roadside on the Isle of Skye a hand-written sign warning us to "Beware free-range children". Yours faithfully, DIANA PARKER-JERVIS, The Gardener's Cottage, Great Hampden, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, August 1.

The rights of shareholders

From Mr Robert Breckman
Sir, Two chairmen have recently been given retirement presents of about £1 million each. British Telecom (report, June 24) which bought its chairman a generous pension, did not ask permission of its shareholders and Rothmans (report, July 30) did. Neither made any difference to the result.

Shareholders reap the benefits of increased profits in the value of their shares, as do those directors who are remunerated on a profits-related basis. But the magnitude of these latest awards highlights the financial nepotism of a board of directors.

The Companies Acts and the taxes Acts should be broadened in their scope to prevent this particular usage of a company's fund and not only should a maximum be put on the settlement figure, but a 75 per cent majority of all shareholders should sanction it. Yours faithfully, ROBERT BRECKMAN, Breckman & Co, Chartered Accountants, 49 South Molton Street, W1, August 1.

CBI and inflation

From Mr G. L. Lloyd
Sir, As a businessman I believe that the CBI is given much too much credence and publicity for its profundity of views on the economy and export markets.

Not so long ago the CBI was pleading for a reduction in interest rates on the grounds that the high cost of finance was an investment inhibitor. Mr Lawson put that argument in its place by scornfully pointing out that the wage increases conceded by business were of much greater cost significance than the interest rates.

This time the CBI is pleading for the exchange rate to be held down in order to keep its costs in line with those of its overseas competitors. What the CBI should be doing is to thunder its persuasion at its members to keep their wage cost increases to no more than the rate of inflation instead of seeking from the Chancellor the soft option of a weak sterling exchange rate.

This Government has faced out the unions and the high-spending town halls. Now they should stand up to business on the currency front and tell them that they have the solution to their cost problems in their own hands.

The country needs a strong pound to fight the next real battle — the battle of inflation. Yours faithfully, G. L. LLOYD, 55 Woodside Avenue, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, August 1.

A little Greek

From Mr Michael Wolf
Sir, My fellow students of Greek and I are delighted that Parris Haldane (July 25) has praised the "powers" and may I add, glory — of that language, ancient and modern.

And it is true that "a confusing version (of anglicised Greek)" has been handed down through the centuries. But such developments clearly are universal, whether transliteration is required or not. So will English-speaking people always travel to Rome or Munich and not to "Roma" or "München".

Your correspondent is calling for "an acceptable transliteration for the future" in "a new dictionary". Heaven forbid! Scholars agree that transliteration is always bound to be somewhat haphazard, hence unreliable. However, quite distinct from transliteration is, of course, phonetic transcription, a far superior guide to pronunciation, and dictionaries with such transcriptions do exist.

Yours sincerely, MICHAEL WOLF, 41 Lansdowne Road, W11, July 27.

Design showcase

From Dr E. S. Owen-Jones
Sir, In a recent letter (July 18) Professor John Eggleston regretted the absence of a venue where the quality of the entries in technological competitions could be appreciated by a wider audience.

A partial solution to the problem has been found at Cardiff where ASW (formerly Allied Steel & Wire) hold a major annual "technical innovation" competition for schools. Following the one-day final the winning and commended entries are transferred to the Welsh Industrial and Maritime Museum where they remain on public display for two weeks. This arrangement has operated for the last two years and has proved most successful.

Yours faithfully, E. S. OWEN-JONES (Acting Keeper), Welsh Industrial and Maritime Museum, Bute Street, Cardiff, July 28.

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICES

TRANSDATA LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS above-named Company will be The Holiday Inn, North H Colham, Portsmouth, Hampshire

day 2 September at 11:00 o'clock for
assembled in Sections 99 to be
the said Act.

A list of the names and addresses
Company's creditors may be in
new York City, at the
60th Floor, Scottish Life House, 1
Road, Southampton, Hampshire, 1
10am and 5pm on Wednesday 31
1980. On Thursday 1 September 1980
creditors wishing to vote the
must lodge their proofs of debt and
they are attending in person or
registered office
60th Floor, Scottish Life House, 1
Road, Southampton, Hampshire, 509
later than 12 noon on Thursday 1
ber 1980.

They surrender their security
secured creditors must give partici
their security and its value if they
vote at the meeting.

On 23 September 1979
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
J NEALE - Director

IN THE MATTER OF E.R. MANN

CO UPON MERCHANTS' LONDON
IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOL-
ACRY 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that
Donald Coleman of Meors Street,
London EC4P 3AB, is the sole
ECAP ABIN, was appointed Liquidator
the above named Company on the
12th day of August 1986.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant
Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986,
a Meeting of the Creditors of the
named Company will be held at the
of the Liquidator, 100 Abchurch Lane,
London EC4P 4AB, on the 12th day of
August 1986 at 10.30 o'clock in the
forenoon for the purpose of ascertaining
the claims of the Creditors pursuant to
Section 98, of the Act.

A list of the names and addresses of all
Creditors of the Company is available
for inspection at the Offices of Meors
Street, St. Paul's Church, Warwick Lane,
London EC4P 4AB, on the 10th day of
August 1986.

Wednesday 10th August 1986

Thursday 11th August 1988
For the purpose of the above, the company
is lodged at the Registered office of
Company, Moore Stephens, Ltd.
House, Warwick Lane, London
EC4N 3AR. Later than 12 noon of the
above date, the meeting
Dated this 3rd day of August 1988
JOHN D COLEMAN - LIQUIDATOR
No. 003148 OF 1988
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY
IN THE MATTER OF MANPAK LTD
AND IN THE MATTER OF
COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT
the High Court of Justice, Chancery
Division, dated 4th July 1988 has ordered
the reduction of the capital of the
named company to the sum of
£100,000 and £100,000 in full.

the Court showing with respect to the
tal of the Company as altered the
particulars by the above mentioned
were registered in the Registrar of
panies on 12th July 1968
Dated this 6th day of August 1968
NICHOLSON, GRAHAM & JONES
19-21 Moorgate
London EC2R 6AU
Solicitors for the Company

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
NO. C25242 OF 1968
IN THE MATTER OF
VYELLA PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES
ACT 1965

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that
der of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) has ordered that the

Division) dated the 4th day of July 1988, confirming the reduction of the capital of the Company to £929,939 and £47,678,654.76 and the Minute as altered in accordance with the provisions of the Contract showing with respect to the capital of the company as altered in accordance with the provisions of the Contract mentioned. AC were registered in the Register of Companies on 8th July 1988. Dated this 2nd day of August 1989.

NABARRO NATHANSON, 60 St Andrew Place,
Singapore 04,
Solicitors for the Company

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
NO 003631 of 1988
IN THE MATTER OF
PUBLICATION PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 18th day of July 1986 confirming the cancellation of the Provisional Liquidation of the above named company by £687,612 and that the winding up was registered by the registrar of companies the 22nd day of July 1986.
Dated this 2nd day of August 1986
Attest
99 Aldwych
LONDON WC2
Solicitors for the above named Co.

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. CO3563 of 1986**

**IN THE MATTER OF MIDSUM
LEISURE PLC
AND
BETWEEN THE MANAGER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 12th July 1988 concerning the application of the above named company for the appointment of a Receiver of the assets of the Share Premium Account of the named Company was registered at the Registrar of Companies on 21st July 1988. The 5th day of August 1988 is the 14th day of August 1988.

By/In
Blyth Durkin
99, Lincoln's Inn Fields
London WC2A 3DW
Solicitors for the above named Company

FOUND 142 LIMITED
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to section 73 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that the above named company is in liquidation and that the name of the liquidator is Mr. J. H. Durkin.

House, 155 Gower Street, London
68J on 31st August 1988, at 2.30.
The following members were in Section
and 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of
Company's Creditors will be available
inspection free of charge, at
House, 155 Gower Street, London
68J on the two business days falling
before the day on which the meeting
of Creditors will be held.
Dated this 29th day of July 1988
D DE WILDE - DIRECTOR

House, 155 Gower Street, London
68J on 31st August 1988, at 2.30.
The following members were in Section
and 101 of the said Act.
A list of the names and addresses of
Company's Creditors will be available
inspection free of charge, at
House, 155 Gower Street, London
68J on the two business days falling
before the day on which the meeting
of Creditors will be held.
Dated this 29th day of July 1988
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By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

It was an impressive building, reflecting the popularity of the cult of St Winifred, and making the substantial nature of the adjacent kitchens understandable.

A complete brick watermill of about 1800 has also been found close by, with an intact iron water-wheel inside it. The medieval mill, the site of which remains elusive, is in

There were three mills in

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Source: BUFAU Report 9: 4-
; Current Archaeology 109:
9-62

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SUMMER DRINKS

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Our experts advise on how to put a sparkle into the quirky old British summer

Cheat with a cheery glass

DIANA LEADBETTER

Great British summers cannot always be guaranteed but no one could accuse Britons of failing to mark the occasion. Wimbledon may be rained off, Glyndebourne a wash-out and the cricket cancelled, but the British bulldog spirit takes in consequential set-backs such as these in its stride. So, drag out the deck chairs, dust off the picnic basket, you may not have realized it, but summer's here.

One drink more than any other is associated with our summer and that is Pimm's. James Pimm, a 19th-century London restaurateur, may not have realized that his unusual form of Gin Sling, flavoured with herbs and liqueurs, would still be so wildly popular a century later, but it is. Purists insist that nothing can come close to Pimm's unique bitter-sweet flavour, especially when it is served simply without a floating fruit salad and parafol garnish.

All that a first class Pimm's requires, say the purists, is one generous measure of the liquor poured into the bottom of a large glass, or a pint mug if you have a free afternoon, plus several cubes of ice and one slice each of lemon and cucumber peel. Leave this to steep for a few minutes and then top it up with chilled sparkling lemonade. Given that Pimm's is now a weaker blend, even the most fanatical of the Pimm's purists will admit to pepping up their silver tankards with a shot of gin to bring it up to its previous strength. Sainsbury's Oddbins is one of the cheapest outlets for Pimm's, with bottles, priced at £6.95. More economical still, and a fraction of the price of the real thing, is my Cheat's Pimm's.

All you need to do to make up your measure of Cheat's Pimm's is to mix one part red Vermouth (either French or Italian will do) to one part gin, and then top up with fizzy lemonade in the usual way.

Sainsbury's has recently enlarged its own-label range of fruit liqueurs, any of which will cheer up a dull glass of summer white wine, if you mix a small teaspoon of liqueur into the drink. There are now three in the range, all produced by the

quality-minded firm of Lejay Lagoute in Dijon. The 50cl, 15 per cent alcohol bottles of these fruit liqueurs cost £3.99 each.

My favourite is still the fine, blackcurrant Crème de Cassis version with its blackcurrant taste, but sweet-tooths will enjoy the exotic blackberry flavours of their Crème de Mûre liqueur, and possibly the rather more spiritry Crème de Framboise, or raspberry liqueur.

Summer barbecue food, if you can keep the coals alight that is, needs light, fruity red wines that can cope with the spices and damp down the fire in your throat. The Victoria Wine Company has an excellent 11.5 per cent '87 Anjou Rouge (£2.49) whose bright crimson purple colour boasts a fresh grassy, raspberry scent backed up by a soft, light, equally fruity palate.

If we have any hot days at all in August, then this Anjou Rouge can easily be served slightly chilled, as can a much finer summer red that is sensational when drunk with lamb — Paul Cinquin's '87 Beaujolais-Région, Domaine des Braves.

M. Cinquin, as anyone who has visited his cellar will know from his awards, is one of that curious breed of Frenchmen who cycle competitively in such races as the Tour de France.

Judging from the superb wines that come from his domaine, he is as skilled and determined in his cellar as he is on the cycle track. Don't miss out on his glorious, vibrant, fruit-packed '87. (André Simon sell it at £5.35.) With the wedding season still here, you might care

to celebrate the nuptials with a few bottles of Charles Heidsieck's new Brut Réserve from the Victoria Wine Company at £11.99. (Majestic stock it for £11.49.) The Gare du Vin, 23 Old Brompton Road, London SW7, and 160 High Street Winchester, is selling this champagne at the discount price of £10.79 until tomorrow. Brut Réserve is a completely revamped non-vintage wine and is a vast improvement on the previous disagreeable thin, non-vintage Brut blend and contains a much higher proportion of aged wines. I loved its pale gold colour and fresh scent and smokey taste.



If you would prefer to serve one of the more pukka *grandes marques* names then visit Oddbins, which is celebrating a quarter of a century of wine trading this year. Now is the time to make use of the company's generous offer of seven bottles of any champagne on its list (except for Dom Pérignon Rosé) for the price of six.

Good non-vintage champagne buys on Oddbins' lengthy list of more than 50 different champagnes include the fruity Bricout Carte Noire (£10.75), from the little-known champagne house of Bricout & Koch, owned by Kupferberg, the giant German sparkling wine firm,

plus the clean-cut light, appley Laurent Perrier (£12.99).

If your budget can cope, try the fine, flowery Pol Roger non-vintage (£14.49) with its especially creamy mousse, a champagne much admired and drunk by Churchill, so that when the great man died Pol Roger added a black border of mourning to the labels.

Finer still, Louis Roederer's glorious new non-vintage blend, Brut Première (£15.99), whose honeyed, biscuity scent is backed up by a very fine, rich biscuity-fruity palate.

If sparkling wine is what you had in mind, Oddbins has a light, fresh

G. F. Cavalier Brut (£2.75) made by the Caves de Wissenbourg, north of Strasbourg and close to Germany. It is excellent.

Peach fizz appears to be the fashionable drink of summer '88 and you can easily make your own by pouring a large dollop of peach juice into the bottom of a tall glass (either pure your own peaches or buy peach nectar — most supermarkets carry the Lindavia brand from Germany, as does Majestic at 95p), and top up the glass with fizz. Here comes summer!

Jane MacQuitty

Chill thought of port on the rocks

In Britain, fortified wines are traditionally considered winter warmers — drinks to go with nuts, nibbles and heavy fruit cake. But in their countries of origin, where climates are notably hotter than ours, they play their part as summer refreshers as well.

What could be more bracing as a summer aperitif than a fresh and properly chilled glass of sharply refreshing dry sherry?

The freshness and the chilling are, though, all-important. Sherry in Britain has suffered a profound depression from stock left lingering far too long on shop shelves, or, even worse, open bottles left to languish at the back of consumers' cupboards.

The summer sherries are *fino* and *manzanilla*, both very dry, with a clean, zesty, tang, accentuated in the case of *manzanilla* by especially high acidity and what some take to be the salty influence of the sea breeze down on the coast at Sanlúcar de Barrameda, where the wine is matured.

Manzanilla is noted for its qualities as an aperitif. Antonio Barbadillo, and Vinicola Hidalgo are leading producers and particularly fine examples of their wines are Hidalgo's pungent and delicate *Manzanilla La Gitana*, (Henry Townsend & Co. 04946-78291, £3.95; Gerard Harris, 0296 631041, £4.10; Adnams, 0502-724222, £4.31) and in a softer, more mature style, though still with that appetizing salt and nuts finish, Barbadillo's Solear *Manzanilla Pasada* (Hicks & Don, 0373-864723, £4.65; Laymont & Shaw, 0872-70545, £4.80).

For *fino* the bestselling and widely stocked Tio Pepe is generally a safe bet, with Domecq's La Ina and Garvey's San Patricio close contenders. Sainsbury's Pale Dry *Fino* (£3.19) has done particularly well in recent blind tastings.

An especially welcome trend is that toward selling *fino* and *manzanilla* in half-bottles, which follows years of wine writers suggesting that sherry remnants be re-corked in half-bottles and stored in the fridge until consumed.

This has now spread from the likes of Fortnum & Mason (which has Don Zello Very Old *Fino* in halves at £4.15) and the Cuvée Wine Co (the same at £3.60) to Majestic Wine Warehouses, whose halves include San Patricio at £4.25, and Sainsbury, which has halves of its own-label *Manzanilla* in 225 branches at £1.75.

Port, Britain's national post-prandial tipple, is now almost demoted to a Christmas treat for most British drinkers. Our European neighbours take more and more of the product, Belgians drinking it as an aperitif, the French drinking it with ice. However, you might think, just that is how they do it in Oporto too, where ruby is served chilled, young tawny on the rocks with a brist of orange, and white port with ice and lemon.

Cockburn's has launched a new brand of white port, Light White (retailing at about £5.99 in Tesco and elsewhere) in hope of developing a market for white port here as light summer drinking. However, it is open to anybody to make long summer drinks, also with the fruity young ruby and tawny wines widely available.

Finally, even the drier Madeira styles, Sercial and Verdelho, make pleasant summer aperitifs, especially on the cooler evenings.

Oddbins has made a special push with Madeira lately and has Cossart & Gordon Five-Year-Olds at £5.99, 10-Year-Olds at £11.25, and as a special treat, Blandy's Verdelho Solera 1890 at £25.49.

Robin Young

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Port, Britain's favorite post-prandial apple pie almost dominated the menu treat for most big drinkers. Our European neighbors take more pleasure in the product. Belgium, for instance, is as an avid French drinking nation.


Hotters, too, might be but that is how the day Operio, too, where we served chilled, young, the rocks with a bit orange, and white port, and lemon.

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TELEVISION

Still open to debate

Discussions about the rights and wrongs of the state of Israel bring out the best or the worst in people, depending on your point of view. The last play in the current David Mercer season, *A Dinner of Herbs* (BBC2) was one long, bizarre, often violent and ultimately unconvincing such discussion.

It was unconvincing because it was set within the strained formal context of a love affair, or at least a relationship, between a quietly committed Israeli teacher Nadav (Yoram Gal) and a poshly intrusive visiting journalist Jane (Fiona Victor).

Nadav's allegiance to Israel was neither fundamentalist nor unquestioning, but it did result in a machine gun in the cupboard and periods of service in the Army. Jane's self-righteous opposition to all things Israeli seemed to be based on the justification that as she was a journalist she understood the world rather better than anyone else around did.

We saw her having an unproductive interview with an Israeli government spokesman, and debating with Nadav's dying father. She ranted against the historical justification for the Israeli state and against their attitude to the Arabs.

We are told that Mercer based her character on himself, and if that is so he must have had a painful kind of self-hatred to endure, since she emerged as deeply unsympathetic, belligerent and arrogant. Nadav, on the other hand, was quietly dignified, preoccupied with his young daughter, and often silent (a stance which she typically interpreted as progress, smug and pompous).

Whether Mercer meant this one-sided relationship to slant the discussion in a pro-Israeli direction it would be hard to say. Anobiographically, his own anti-Israeli views must have changed before his death, and I do not know why this play has remained unperformed until now.

But the result was not to leave the scales evenly balanced. It left me feeling that only those who live through the situation in Israel have any right to interpret it. Excellent performances throughout, though Fiona Victor's Jane never quite attained the level of brazen flamboyance demanded by the script.

William Holmes

John Higgins reports on the opening opera of the Salzburg Festival, conducted by Riccardo Muti

Mozart's winning score

OPERA

La clemenza di Tito
Salzburg Festival

Whether by accident or design, the first three operas in the this year's Salzburg Festival have all been concerned with forgiveness. In the small Festspielhaus, Angelina has been magnanimous to her step-father and step-sisters in *La cenerentola*. Next door at the large Festspielhaus there is conciliation, perhaps only temporary, all round in the last act of *Le nozze di Figaro*. While up above, in the Felsenreitschule at the opening performance, there was the pardon of Tito Vespasiano himself towards those who would kill him, in *La clemenza di Tito*.

A certain amount of musicological squabbling has been going on over whether Mozart, in his final opera, wrote a paean of praise to royalty who forgave the sins of their subjects, or whether indeed he was encouraged to show a fairly unsavoury emperor in a benign light. A third suggestion is made by Peter Brenner, who stages Salzburg's new production: the milk of kindness which, rather improbably, started flowing through the veins of Titus in his middle years, led to the softness that encouraged plots around him.

Quite a lot of this seems designed to make Titus a rather more interesting character than in fact he is. After the conspirators have tried to carry out their fell deed at the end of Act One, all that remains to be seen in Act Two is whether they will be punished. And the answer to that question is given in the title of the opera.

But, if Titus himself is a none too rewarding part, there remain those of the evil Vitellia, aspiring to the throne of Rome, and Sesto, who is cajoled into carrying out her wishes. And there is, of course, the score itself. Mozart at his most elevated, bending and twisting the old-fashioned form of *opera seria* into new shapes to suit his art.

In *Clemenza* the conductor has to be supreme and in Riccardo Muti, conducting his third opera here, Salzburg have found an outstanding exponent of the work. It is sometimes overlooked that

Crowning moment: Carol Vaness (left) as Vitellia, with Delores Ziegler as Sesto, in Peter Brenner's Salzburg production of *La clemenza di Tito*

Muti is a great Gluck interpreter, dating back to his *Orfeo* at Florence well over a decade ago. But it is the spirit of Gluck that Muti brings to *Clemenza*, not just the emotional outpouring of Vitellia's Rondo "Non più fiori", but the colouring which at times makes the solo instrument as important as the human voice.

Comparisons, inevitably, will be made between Muti's *Clemenza* and the one of 1976 with which James Levine made his opera debut here. If memory serves, Levine was lighter and — dare one say it of this roly-poly figure? — leaner, while Muti is grander and more solemn.

Comparisons too are going to be made between Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's staging of that year and what Peter Brenner has achieved now. Here the divisions are much clearer cut. Ponnelle's *Clemenza*

was quite simply one of the best uses ever made of the Felsenreitschule. Brenner's production is no more than formal in a rather middle-aged way.

It is designer, Enrico Job, blocks off the centre of the stage with a massive circular curtain, green as the Salzburg fields after a thunderstorm (of which there have been plenty this year), suspended from four tall obelisks. It is a handy device for changing scene, but it totally destroys the symmetry of the Felsenreitschule itself.

A massive staircase is built to the left of the stage, but scarcely used. Nor does Brenner employ much those corners of the playing area which are ideal for the exchanging of confidences: when Anzio and Sesto get together for the Duetto "Deh prendi", which

suggests that they are as much in love with one another as with anyone else, it comes as a mighty relief. Much of the rest is mere regal gesture, very handsomely dressed, as though we were listening to Racine rather than Mozart.

The grandest vocal sounds come from Carol Vaness as Vitellia, who has now reined in her tendency to sing too loudly. She has always had the power to express vocal emotion — and Vitellia is not short of feelings, whether vicious or repentant — but this is now matched by notable vocal control. A very Gluckian performance, much in line with Muti's reading.

Delores Ziegler as Sesto has not got Vaness's fire-power, but she makes a credible tomboyish figure riven by doubts and delivers each number with grave sincerity. A mezzo new to me, Martha Senn, is

well contrasted as a *faux-naïf* Anzio, who gets his way through wide-eyed adolescent charm — an artist to be watched.

The other half of the *Clemenza* sextet of principals is less impressive. Gosta Winbergh's tenor has the necessary declamatory weight for Titus, but like others before him he fails to hew out any character from the role.

Christine Barbaux sings Servilia well enough but lets her remain a cypher. Laszlo Polgar makes it all too obvious that Publio is not Muti's most rewarding bass part.

No, this was a *Titus* where the Vienna Philharmonic with Muti and the Chorus (under Walter Hagen-Groll) carried the day and the clemency was required from time to time on stage.

There are further performances on August 7, 13, 21 and 28.

Night music

Roger Woodward
Kensington Town Hall

This was inspired programming for a late evening of musical contemplation, and indeed inspired playing. Roger Woodward began with the Baroque sonata, a work which he goes on revealing as huge and uncomfortable, beginning with such a gathering of creative and re-creative energy, then turning around on episodes of note repetition that become almost unbearable precisely because the expressive effect is not forced but left simply inevitable. He comes at last to the long stretch of negation that is what the piece is about, though of course the broken gestures, the thinned textures and the silences here gain their meaning from the contrast with the abundance that has gone before.

This was a long performance, lasting a little over 50 minutes, but conveyed throughout with intense concentration, total confidence in every move, and a strong feeling for the drama of Baroque, for the desperation in a sudden high motif coming in the middle of baritone rumination, or for the crushing malignancy of the lowest register. Fifteen years after the composer's death it remains regrettable that he was unable to fulfil his plan to write another sonata for Woodward, even though a second Baroque sonata is among the most unimaginable of might-have-beens.

Two Stockhausen piano pieces, Nos. 9 and 11, provided a striking contrast, for where the Baroque has immense singleness of purpose and strength of movement through all its discontinuities, Stockhausen, like Messiaen, finds no problem in being disjointed and static. These were big, empowered and scintillating performances, but there was a sense, even with a will like Woodward's at work, of whistling in the dark. Nor have I ever heard it made so clear that the composer of *Licht* was already there, harmonically, in his music of the 1950s.

Paul Griffiths

CONCERTS

Outline
WaltonBBCWSO/Thomson
Albert Hall/Radio 3

For a variety of reasons, Walton's opera *Troilus and Cressida* has never quite become a popular success. Yet there is much fine and attractive music in this score, and it is very good news that the orchestral suite which Christopher Palmer has fashioned from it is so skilfully executed. It is arranged in four sections, tracing the action of the opera in outline.

The third section gives us the love music, at first warm and gently ardent, but soon rising to an *orgiastic consummation*, described by the composer as "pornographic". The fourth section includes an episode in Walton's familiar martial vein. The suite deserves to be heard as regularly in the concert hall as the Sea Interludes from Britten's *Peter Grimes* (which it echoes more than once). True, the arrangement is not the composer's own; on the other hand, it is more substantial than the *Grimes* interludes, and I have little doubt that the composer would have approved.

The BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, which has long since developed into a first-rate band, played excellently under Bryden Thomson. They also passed the tests they were set in two more conventional repertory items: Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kijé* Suite and Holst's *Egdon Heath*. The former calls for acute rhythmic precision and flawless solo work, both of which were forthcoming, not least from the uncredited cornet player.

Now that it is becoming academically respectable for those of us who are Tchaikovsky admirers to venture out of the closet, it is more vital than ever that the old war-horse of the First Piano Concerto is given sympathetically. Sadly, Jean-Philippe Collard's approach was, for the most part, good — old-fashioned keyboard pounding. The magical, impressionistic soundscape of the slow movement was briefly hinted at, but I doubt if it was enough to win the work many new admirers.

Barry Millington

Cowboy capers

DANCE

Dance Theatre
of Harlem
Coliseum

Dance Theatre of Harlem has always ranged far in its search for suitable ballets, and thereby made some interesting rediscoveries. Not least the new staging of *Billy the Kid*.

Created for Ballet Caravan in 1938, it was an example of Lincoln Kirstein's belief that American ballet should take inspiration from American history and folklore. Aaron Copland's score draws upon traditional cowboy songs, and Eugene Loring's choreography shows Billy's violent life as part of the opening up of new frontiers. In the processional beginning and end, this seems portentous, but elsewhere it makes

for vivid effect and even humour.

The ballet has been mounted from notation, and a sharper producer's hand could put more edge on its details and performance. Donald Williams gives Billy a suburban pride, although his motif of pique and air turns at every killing could do with more pistol-shot precision. Stephanie Dabney brings gentle strength to the sweetheart who fills his dreams; Hughes Magen is excellent in some aspects of Alias, the role embodying all his victims.

A pity that Jared French's original designs could not be used; Robert Fletcher's simplified adaptation of them looks less well. The programme included John Taras's adaptation of *The Firebird*, with Judy Tyrus admirable in the title role, and a set of seemingly arbitrary movement exercises by John McFall, to Martin's *Toccata e Due Canzoni*, which did little for its dancers or this observer.

John Percival

Youthful promise

Australian Ballet
Covent Garden

The Australian Ballet were unnecessarily timorous, I think, in scheduling during the London season only one performance of a work by their latest choreographer, Timothy Gordon. His *Sonata for Seven* shows a bold use of movement and assured stagecraft, and suggests that he has a real gift worth persevering with.

Gordon, a New Zealander, began his dancing career with the Australian Ballet, but his choreographic style shows more the influence of the time he has spent with Netherlands Dance Theatre and the Frankfurt Ballet.

The music is Prokofiev's Piano Sonata No. 7, ably played by Nigel Gaylor. Gordon began by staging *Sonata for Seven* as a bold use of movement and assured stagecraft, and suggests that he has a real gift worth persevering with.

First comes an extremely aggressive situation among three men: Brett Morgan is the toughie, Ricardo Ella the victim, and Mark Pace the one who gets by thanks to natural cunning. This section is full of clashes, throws, and falls, all toughly and astutely handled.

The second movement shows a woman (Kathleen Reid) whose loneliness is alleviated for a time by a handsome stranger (Steven Heathcote) who may be real or imagined. Finally, there is a quick fiery relationship between Fiona Tomkin and David McAllister.

Each of the music's three movements is reasonably faithfully reflected in the choreography.

What the ballet does not do is to draw them together into a coherent whole, although Hugh Colman's costume designs and William Akers's harsh lighting go a long way to disguise that.

J.P.

Serge Lifar's *Suite en Blanc* is a straightforward display piece, a series of bravura dances set to an attractive score by Edouard Lalo. It demands considerable virtuosity and a strong sense of style. The former is amply supplied, but for these mainly very young dancers, the sophistication and wit needed to add the final glitter proved elusive. None the less, there were some admirable performances, notably from Anna de Cardi in the *Serenade* and Fiona Tonkin in the *Flute* solo.

I could imagine myself loathing Maurice Béjart's *Gaieté Parisienne* but, danced by the Australian men, with their straightforward masculine style, the Parisian "cops" are immediately transformed to "best mates". The ballet can best be described as a series of picture postcards of Paris, the Belle Époque and Béjart's own early days as a dance student, working with the legendary Madame Rousset, wonderfully played here by Mary Duchesne with jet black wig and impenetrable Russian accent. Mark Annear as Béjart, the Béjart-figure, wanders happily through a gallery of Second Empire characters and Paris stereotypes.

He finally wins the praise of his teacher and their after-goes dance a rapturous *pas de deux*.

Judith Cruickshank

Anouilh's sturdy fairy-tale

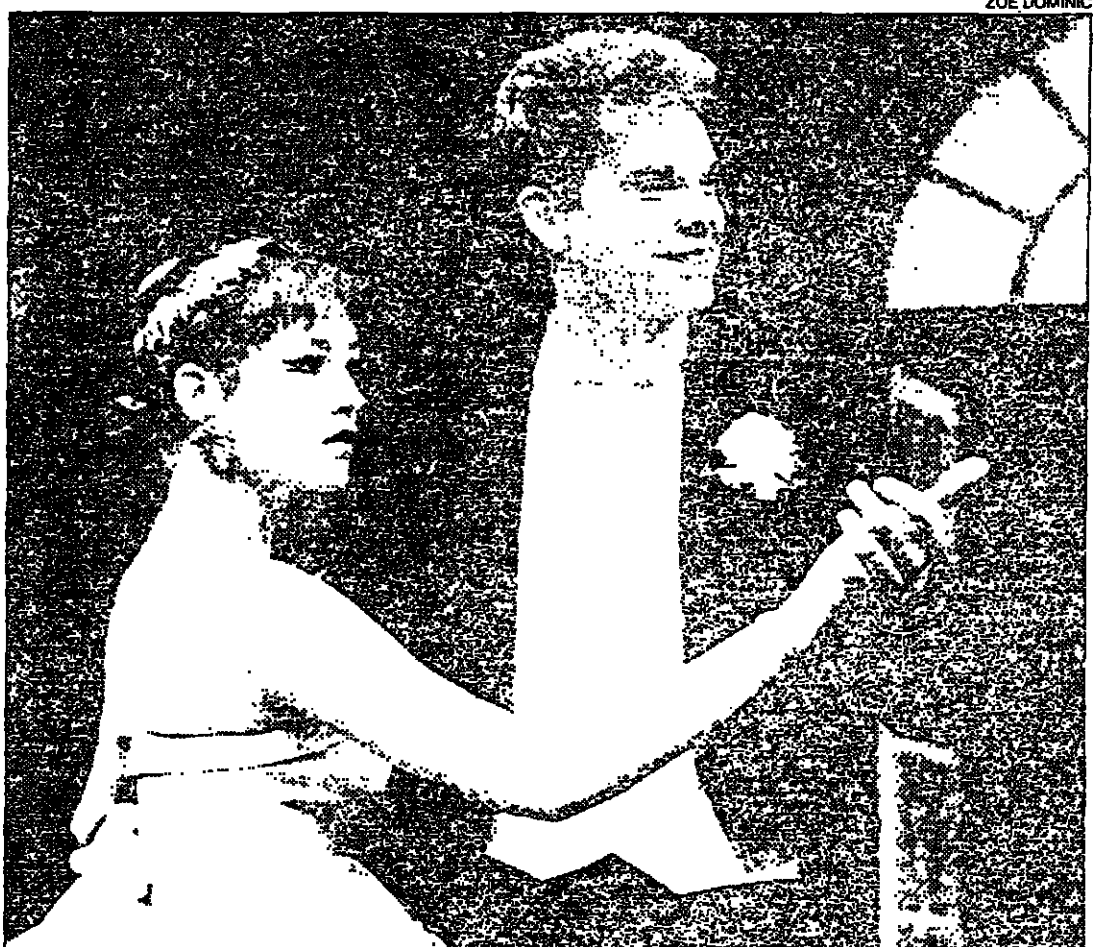
THEATRE

Ring Round The
Moon
Chichester

In the 1960s Anouilh's reputation began to dip, in France as over here, and if English audiences know his work of the period then it is partly because John Clements stubbornly continued to produce it at this theatre. His enterprise could only have worked in the context of a festival theatre, possibly only at this theatre, where audiences could be expected to carry fond memories of the two plays that had given the author his reputation as the creator of piquant fairy-tales: *Time Remembered* and *Ring Round the Moon*.

If Anouilh's *Ring* was produced even half as often as *The Importance of Being Earnest* its sparkling lines would have become as familiar to us as the handbag, the Brighton line and the rest of them. There is even a witty aunt, though she is kinder than Lady Bracknell and plays the good fairy in sorting out the mismatched young lovers.

This year's Chichester production, directed very creditably by Elijah Moshinsky, uses the Christopher Fry translation that Peter Brook, good heavens, produced with Scofield as the identical twins, Frederic the tender one and Hugo the cynic. Fry closely models his wit on the original, and where there are departures the reasons are often obvious. Hugo is Horace in the French version but obviously nobody could be a cynic, still less gloriously upper class, while answering to Horace. The setting is delicately airy: a winter garden attached to a great house, and just a touch ostentatious with its golden palm trees and shiny black floor (designer, Saul Radomsky). The language too sometimes takes off into flights of fancy but the plot has the sturdiness of every good fairy-tale. The cynical twin invites Isabelle, a



Dancing in a ring: Holly Aird as Isabelle, Michael Siberry as Hugo/Frederic make a dashing partnership

poor ballet dancer, to the ball with instructions to lure the tender (win away from the millionaire's daughter whom, unknown to himself, the cynical one loves).

The other characters are all engaged in schemes of their own that become caught up in the main tale. In one of Moshinsky's choicer pieces of business three of the men go whirling about the stage in a wild movement on the edge of lifting into a dance. Their different schemes are in danger of colliding, and so are they. Christopher Godwin is specially comic here as Isabelle's fussy patron Romainville transformed into a sort of frantic black starfish.

Even if he did, one would have one's suspicions: some of the detail comes into the "stranger than fiction" category and the Jamie character (Ben Daniels), a.k.a. Mr. Raison himself, is more fully realized than the girl, Claire (Geraldine Fitzgerald). Perhaps that in itself is a kind of achievement; it is not easy to write honestly or convincingly about oneself.

Trouble is, it's a bit like peeking into someone's very well written but very private diary. Ben Daniels and Geraldine Fitzgerald make matters worse by acting so well, striking up a convincing relationship on stage which is all too real

in its faltering first steps, in joys and miseries.

The question which hangs over all is whether the accurate reproduction of what actually happened, obviously the raw material of drama, can be drama by itself without being marinated in other experiences, processed through the dramatist's skill and technique and generally universalized. I don't think it can, any more than a crushed grape can be called wine.

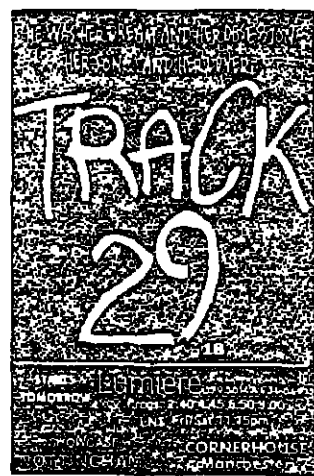
This is not a matter of personal prejudice; the proof is right there in *The Rain Gathering*, in the very imbalance between the two characterizations. If it was drama, it wouldn't matter because there

figures invent a part to play and all dissolves in laughter. Observing the charade from a wheelchair is Google Withers's spirited and golden hearted Gorge. Among other pleasures are June Whitfield's gushing parvenu, the crab-like walk of Michael Denison's crumbling butler and, in more sombre vein, Jose Ferrer as a dyspeptic millionaire, condemned to a diet of plain noodles but at the end, to general satisfaction, consenting to add to them a little salt. Anouilh may not have been tops as a philosopher of life but he knew how to round off a play.

Jeremy Kingston

would be more going on than the anatomizing of the relationship. As it is, the one-sidedness of the play — clever, kind, shy, loving Jamie as against the quixotic and self-destructive Claire — makes it look dangerously like personal therapy for Raison.

That would be over-stating, however. There's enough here to make one want to see more of Raison's writing as it matures and confirms his already growing reputation as an extremely talented and subtle director.

Robert
Dawson Scott

INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only
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THEATRE
LONDON

★ **THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON:** J.M. Barrie's other desert island play, with Rex Harrison as the little girl and Edward Fox as his perfect butler. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (01-530 9832). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Now previewing, 7.30-10.30pm. Press night Aug 6, 7-9.30pm. Mon-Tue-Sat 7.30-10pm, Wed-Sat 3-5.50pm. 28-21.

★ **ARTIST DESCENDING:** Visual, aural and erotic misadventure in a new version of Stoppard's ingenious radio play. King's Head Theatre, 115 Upper St. N1 (01-226 1918). Tube: Angel/Highbury & Islington. Tues-Sun 8-9.30pm; mats Sat 3.30-4.50pm and Sun 3-4.20pm. Tues-Fri 28; Sat and Sun 28.50.

★ **HELLO AND GOODBYE:** Estelle Kohler and Anthony Sher as brother and sister in Fugard's absorbing play. Start of a two-month season of RSC productions. Almeida Theatre, Almeida St. N1 (01-535 4404). Tube: Highbury & Islington. Press night tonight, 7pm. Then tomorrow at 2pm and 7.30pm. In repertory from Aug 22, 28.50-28.50.

★ **MRS KLEIN:** New Nicholas Wright play centring on a psychoanalyst and the life of psychoanalyst Melanie Klein. National Theatre, Cottesloe, South Bank, SE1 (01-226 2252). Tube: Waterloo. Previewing from tonight, 7.30pm. Press night Aug 10, 7pm, then in repertory, 27.50.

★ **THE RECRUITING OFFICER:** Jim Broadbent as rascally Sgt Kite in a strongly cast production of Farquhar's tough comedy. Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, SW1 (01-730 1745, or 01-240 7200). Tube: Sloane Square. Mon, Tues-Sat, 8pm. 25-15.

★ **THE THREE SISTERS:** Brian Cox and Harriet Walter lead the RSC in its first Barbican production. Barbican Theatre, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-538 8891). Tube: Barbican. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm. Press night Aug 5, 7pm, opens Aug 6, 7.30pm, 28-15.

★ **THE JUNGLE BOOK:** Revival of the joyous Disney cartoon based on Kipling's stories, with knockabout visual gags and simple but effective animation (78min). Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0130). Progs 1.20, 4.45, 6.10, 8.35.

★ **NOTHING HILL CORNER:** (01-727 6705). Progs 1.50, 4.00, 6.20, 8.30.

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For crying out loud: Dennis Robinson, town crier from Sandbach

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Cry, cry and cry again

Fifty-two town criers from England and Wales will vie tomorrow afternoon to become National Champion and/or the Best Dressed Competitor at the 37th National Town Criers' Championship at Warrior Square Garden in Hastings. Dennis Robinson of Sandbach, last year's winner, will be among them. So too will the oldest competitor, Alfie Howard, who at 76 is still in good voice, and the youngest, James Bobbett, the 34-year-old bellman from Gloucestershire. Competitors for the national championship are hidden from view. Each has to read his or her (there are two lady competitors) 45 word announcement. The judges, the mayor and her consort and the leader of the town council, will be listening for a loud, ringing voice which enables every word to be clearly heard. Christine Porch, a director of the Bechill Costume Museum, and a colleague have the unenviable task of selecting the best-dressed crier. Not all competitors will have been clothed by "official" costumiers since a full rig-out can cost up to £1,500. Some outfits will have been made at home. In the end, what the judges are looking for is the correct presentation of the period - represented and not necessarily. From 2.30pm. Information on 0424 720222. Judy Froskang

his Beyond Twelve and with the Sydney Dance Company, his *Sharing*.

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his Beyond Twelve and with the Sydney Dance Company, his *Sharing*

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Robert Christensen

TELEVISION AND RADIO

BBC1

- 6.00** *Celebrity AM*.
6.40 *Edgar Kennedy in Home*.
7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Jeremy Paxman and Sally Jones. Includes regional and national news at 7.00, 7.30, 7.55 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27.
8.30 *Buck Rogers* (b/w). Episode 10 of the classic 12-part adventure. 8.55 Regional news and weather.
9.00 *News* and weather. **9.05** *But First This!* presented by Andy Crane begins with The Pink Panther Show. Three cartoons (r). **9.55** *Harvest*. The final programme of the better picture making series presented by Tony Hart (r). (Coastal) 8.50 Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon (r).
10.00 *News* and weather followed by *Gentle Ben*. Adventures of a boy with a pet bear (r). **10.30** *Play School* (r). **10.55** *Five to Eleven* with pupils from St Anne's Primary School. Tooting Bec. (Coastal).
11.00 *News* and weather followed by *Undersea Kingdom* (b/w). Part eight of the classic adventure series.
11.30 *White on One*. The Orinoco hog - the world's largest rodent (r). (Coastal).
12.00 *News* and weather followed by *The Gardens Party* presented by Vivienne Lister-Jones. Archie Macpherson celebrates the centenary of Cecil FC; and reviews summer sport. **12.55** *Regional news* and weather.
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. Weather. **1.30** *Neighbours*. Ramsey Street rallies to Paul's cause but this may cause further problems.
1.50 *Crickets: Fifth Test*. The afternoon session of the second day's play in the game at the Oval between England and the West Indies introduced by Tony Lewis.

BBC2

- 6.55** *Open University: Science - a* *History of Life*. Ends at 7.30.
9.00 *Coastal*.
10.55 *Crickets: Fifth Test*. The morning session of the second day's play in the game at the Oval between England and the West Indies.
1.05 *Weekend Outlook* (r). **1.10** *Coastal*. **1.20** *Mop and Smith* (r). **1.35** *Crickets and Golf*. Further coverage of the game at the Oval between England and the West Indies; and second round action in the Benson and Hedges International from Fulford Golf Club, York. Includes news and weather at 2.00, 3.00 and 3.50.
6.10 *Film: The Falcon* (b/w). (1944, b/w) starring Tom Conway and Mona Maris. Smooth Tom Lawrence, in Mexico, comes to the aid of a young lady and discovers a newly painted picture by an artist who was thought to have died 15 years before. Directed by William Berke.
7.15 *Gorilla, Gorilla*. An award-winning documentary made by Anne Wyl about zoo-housed gorillas (r).

BBC1

- 6.00** *Wales*. **6.30** *Wales*. **6.55** *Wales*. **7.00** *Wales*. **7.30** *Wales*. **7.55** *Wales*. **8.00** *Wales*. **8.30** *Wales*. **8.55** *Wales*. **9.00** *Wales*. **9.30** *Wales*. **9.55** *Wales*. **10.00** *Wales*. **10.30** *Wales*. **10.55** *Wales*. **11.00** *Wales*. **11.30** *Wales*. **11.55** *Wales*. **12.00** *Wales*. **12.30** *Wales*. **12.55** *Wales*. **1.00** *Wales*. **1.30** *Wales*. **1.55** *Wales*. **2.00** *Wales*. **2.30** *Wales*. **2.55** *Wales*. **3.00** *Wales*. **3.30** *Wales*. **3.55** *Wales*. **4.00** *Wales*. **4.30** *Wales*. **4.55** *Wales*. **5.00** *Wales*. **5.30** *Wales*. **5.55** *Wales*. **6.00** *Wales*. **6.30** *Wales*. **6.55** *Wales*. **7.00** *Wales*. **7.30** *Wales*. **7.55** *Wales*. **8.00** *Wales*. **8.30** *Wales*. **8.55** *Wales*. **9.00** *Wales*. **9.30** *Wales*. **9.55** *Wales*. **10.00** *Wales*. **10.30** *Wales*. **10.55** *Wales*. **11.00** *Wales*. **11.30** *Wales*. **11.55** *Wales*. **12.00** 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MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1508.5 (+6.5)	US dollar 1.7110 (+0.0005)
FT-SE 100 1869.7 (+4.6)	W German mark 3.2133 (+0.0061)
US\$ (Datastream) 169.75 (+0.67)	Trade-weighted 76.5 (+0.1)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Bids open for BR subsidiary

Formal invitations to bid went out yesterday to more than a dozen companies and groups which have expressed an interest in acquiring British Rail Engineering, the British Rail locomotive and carriage manufacturing subsidiary based at Derby.

A management team is also putting together a bid, with the backing of Britain's Trafalgar House, Sweden's ASEA and Switzerland's Brown Boveri.

Acquisition proposals must be submitted at the beginning of October and the BR board hopes to complete the sale before the year end.

Clowes case

The Crown Prosecution Service may bring further charges against Mr Peter Clowes, the former head of Barlow Clowes, a CFS spokeswoman indicated yesterday.

Oil down

Oil traders yesterday marked prices down, following the inconclusive meeting of the OPEC monitoring committee in Switzerland. North Sea Brent crude traded at \$14.45 a barrel, compared with \$15.10 the day before.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2127.13 (-6.94)
Dow Jones	2127.13 (-6.94)
Nikkei Average	28292.66 (-55.79)
Hong Kong	2677.37 (-15.26)
Amersterdam Gen	282.1 (+0.6)
Sydney AO	1631.3 (-9.2)
Frankfurt	1488.7 (-0.8)
Brussels	4944.5 (+13.9)
Paris CAC	358.5 (-0.2)
Zurich SKA Gen	478.1 (+4.1)
London	
FT-A All-Share	975.20 (+3.06)
FT-100	1067.23 (+0.8)
FT Gold Mines	159.1 (+1.3)
FT Fixed Interest	97.58 (-0.01)
FT Govt Secs	88.37 (-0.39)
Recent issues	Page 24
Closing prices	Page 27

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Blue Circle	488.5p (+12p)
Courts (Furn) A	242.5p (+25p)
Greenall Wholly	225.0p (+10p)
Voco	350.0p (+10p)
A Goss	200.0p (+10p)
J Rothschild	147.0p (+10p)
Poly Pak	320.0p (+10p)
Tozer Kemsley	210.0p (+7p)
Heptap	321.0p (+11p)
Throg Dual	335.0p (+10p)
Continental & Ind	800.0p (+10p)
Pleasure	250.0p (+10p)
Rossmore	745.0p (+11p)
British Aerospace	491.5p (+9p)

FALLS:

TVS	314.0p (-15p)
Unit Point	37.0p (-1p)
PWS	153.0p (-51p)
Hunter	210.0p (-10p)
Personal Computer	250.0p (-25p)
Closing prices	Page 27
Burgins	251.2p

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	10.5%
3-month interbank	10.75%
3-month eligible bills	10.75%-10.9%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	9%
Federal Funds 7 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills	6.87-6.86%
30-year bonds	10.75%-10.9%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ \$1.7110	\$ £1.7100
DM \$2.2133	DM £1.8805
Sfr \$2.6820	Sfr £1.5680
FF \$10.2520	FF £6.5500
Yen \$22.48	Yen £133.02
Index 76.8	Index 98.7
ECU £0.648167	SDR £0.760539

GOLD

London Fixing	New York
AM \$433.40 pm \$433.10	
250 \$433.00-433.50 (250.00-250.50)	
New York	
Comex \$432.80-433.50	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sept) pm \$14.45bbl (\$14.92)	
* Denotes latest trading price	

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● Market news on Stockwatch yesterday included: British Airways (01846) added 6p on better-than-expected first quarter results. Mecca (01472) shares dropped 12p after their hostile £621m bid for Pleasurama (02209), whose shares rose 34p. PWS Holdings (02353) dropped 52p on news that their chief executive resigned following losses in the US.

● Recent additions include: Dukeminster (03411); Seriff Cowells (02896); TVS Entertainment (03413)

● Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

Mecca offers £621m for Pleasurama

By Cliff Feltham

Mecca Leisure, one of the oldest names in the entertainment industry, stunned the stock market yesterday by springing a £621 million takeover bid for Pleasurama, the hotels and casino group.

Mecca insisted the bid would only go ahead if Pleasurama called off its offer for the Hard Rock Café chain. Pleasurama, which is three times the size of Mecca, dismissed the offer as "opportunistic and unwelcome."

Leisure analysts were doubtful of Mecca's bid succeeding at its present level, but there was speculation that other predators could move in with rival bids for Pleasurama, which has been the subject of takeover talk for some time. Favourites are the Rank Organisation and Bass, the brewer.

Mecca's all-paper offer values the Pleasurama ordinary shares at 261p and the convertible preference shares at 243p. Pleasurama, which had shot up in late trading on Wednesday, jumped 34p to 260p. Mecca fell 12p to 204p.

Mr Michael Guthrie, the Mecca chairman, revealed that he opened talks with Pleasurama early last year to try and agree a merger.

"They acknowledged there were strong commercial benefits in a get-together but decided they wanted to remain on their own. However, we are convinced there is a need for a strong pure entertainment-based group. The City has said it wants to be able to invest in a large leisure group which we believe we can create," said Mr Guthrie.

"We haven't suddenly thought up this bid. We have been looking at it for 18 months," he added.

Comment

Earnings per share are forecast at least 24 per cent higher at not less than 14.4p.

A big stumbling block is likely to be a Pleasurama extraordinary meeting next week to vote on the Hard Rock acquisition and a £120 million rights issue to pay for the deal.

The resolution needs the support of 75 per cent of the shareholders.

Mr Guthrie said he was not convinced the deal was a good one. He said Pleasurama's plans to promote the use of the name could ruin its appeal, while running single outlets around the world would be difficult to manage.

"There are a number of aspects to this deal which we think need a much closer investigation," he said.

Mecca claimed there was a strong shareholder overlap between the two companies, with its own institutional investors owning as much as 30 per cent of Pleasurama.

Mr Jeremy Long, the Mecca finance director, said: "We believe the common shareholder base will provide good support for our offer particularly in view of the desire among institutions to find a large vehicle for investment in the leisure sector."

But, Mr Barry Hardy, Pleasurama's planning and development director, said: "We are not convinced that creating a large leisure group makes it a good one. We could turn round and bid for them but it would not make us a better company. There has got to be a chance of someone else coming in and bidding for us. If we wanted to look around for a white knight we would have no difficulty in finding one."

Mr Nigel Reed, a leisure analyst at Kitcat & Aitken, the broker, said: "I am not totally surprised by the bid. There have been rumours that Mecca could be tying up with Rank to launch a bid. The bid makes a lot of sense."

Mecca is offering seven new ordinary shares and 10 new convertible preference for every 10 Pleasurama ordinary shares.

It is also offering 28 new ordinary and 40 new convertible preference for every 43 Pleasurama convertible preference shares.

Power industry 'met Government targets'

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The electricity industry, which is set to be sold off in the biggest-ever privatization of state-owned assets, announced yesterday that last year it met Government financial targets set three years ago, that it created new sales records, and coped with the worst hurricane damage in its 40-year history, while cutting prices by 17 per cent in real terms.

However, power prices, which rose in April this year, will have to go up again - probably by about 5 per cent next year, before the industry is privatized, to meet the latest Government targets.

Sir Philip Jones, the chairman of the Electricity Council, the umbrella organization which represents the existing 12 area electricity boards and the Central Electricity Generating Board, said that the industry's ability to achieve much higher returns when freed from Government constraints will be used by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Energy Secretary, in the coming months to underline the potential it has for both profits and efficiencies, which will ultimately lead to lower power prices.

The financial figures results announced by the industry showed that it made a pre-tax operating profit of £865 million in 1987-88 and an after-tax figure of £154.6 million, compared with £1,166 million and £587 million the year before, reflecting the decision, in April 1987, to keep prices down and not exceed the Government's financial targets.

The industry's ability to achieve much higher returns when freed from Government constraints will be used by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Energy Secretary, in the coming months to underline the potential it has for both profits and efficiencies, which will ultimately lead to lower power prices.

The Bill for the privatization of the industry will be put before Parliament this autumn, with vesting day in January 1990.

The CEGB said yesterday that from January it will operate three shadow companies, in line with its structure following privatization, from January next year.

Sir Philip and Lord Marshall of Goring, the head of the CEGB, said that private power generators were coming forward, and that this could increase competition.

However, until the industry moves into the private sector its critics will continue to argue that it is being "fattened up" for privatization.

TI surprises with 60% gain

By Alexandra Jackson

TI Group, the specialist engineering company, beat market expectations with a 60 per cent increase in pre-tax profits from £25.1 million to £40.1 million in the half year to end-June. The shares jumped 13p to 369p.

The interim dividend rises from 3.5p to 4.75p.

Sales edged ahead 2 per cent from £465 million to £473.2 million allowing operating margins to widen from 6.4 per cent to 8.8 per cent.

Crane, the US specialist seals business, and Bundy, a small diameter tube operation, acquired in September and April respectively, made satisfactory contributions. Acquisitions added £6 million to pre-tax profits.

Despite fluctuating currencies during the half year the profits shortfall was only £1 million.

There was a pension fund holiday worth £1 million at the operating profits level, compared with £1.6 million in the first half of last year.

TI is reorganizing its research operation to improve the link between the technology and marketing sides. This involves the closure of the group's central laboratory in Cambridge. All TI's applied technology research will be done at the operating locations, compared with 70 per cent before.

Half of the extraordinary charge of £2.4 million relates to this closure. There will be cost savings by next year.

The only disappointing area in the half-year results was the aerospace division, where profits marked time.

Aerospace accounts for about 6 per cent of sales but a slightly higher percentage of profits.

Tempus, page 24

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Tempus, page 24

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Tempus, page 24

American investment 'could lose £4m'

PWS chief resigns after bad US buy

By Colin Campbell

Mr Raanan Ben-Zur, aged 32, the chief executive of PWS Holdings, the Lloyd's broker, yesterday summarily resigned from PWS after the group's unexpected admission that it stands to lose up to £4 million on its January takeover of Glenn, Nyhan & Associates, the US insurance group.

PWS, which is Britain's seventh largest quoted insurance broking group, obliquely said that the projected £4 million loss follows the revelation to its board yesterday of "a serious concealment" regarding certain aspects of GNA's operations, and that the board "is considering the company's legal remedies arising as a result of the acquisition."

PWS's net is likely to be cast in the US and Britain in pursuit of its legal claims, industry sources said. Its shares slumped from 205p to 154p reflecting not only the financial impact on PWS but also fears about the fate of Mr Ben-Zur's 42 per cent family holding.

Mr Ben-Zur's original family company, The Hudson Group, was effectively reversed into PWS International in May, 1986, and it was Mr Ben-Zur who was seen to be the dominant influence within the merged PWS group.

Yesterday's share price reaction also reflected investment concern that Mr Ben-Zur - autocratic though he might have been - was widely regarded as the architect of PWS, and that earlier performance hopes may not now be fulfilled. However, PWS was quick to replace Mr Ben-Zur with the appointment of Mr Brian Sounes as acting chief executive. No other boardroom resignations are planned.

Despite the generally accepted principle of a board's collective responsibility, Mr Ben-Zur was yesterday said to have been the director most visibly identified with the GNA takeover, and that because the acquisition was said to have been one of his personal crusades, he had decided in view of developments to tender his resignation. The offer was unanimously accepted by the board.

PWS bought GNA in February for \$500,000 in cash and the issue of 1.39 million shares, valuing the acquisition at \$3 million (\$5.1 million at the exchange rates then).

At the time, PWS said GNA would be a significant addition to the PWS Group, adding that the board "look forward to the contribution which they believe the executives of GNA will make."

PWS admitted yesterday that after it had bought GNA, which specializes in liability insurance programmes for US professional trade associations, it was obliged to inject more capital into GNA. The group's total current commitment to GNA is estimated at \$12 million.



Jumbo savings: Sir Colin Marshall, the chief executive of BA (Photograph: James Morgan)

BA is back on course with £81m first quarter profit

By Graham Searjeant

British Airways pleased the City with profits of £81 million pre-tax for the March to June quarter, the first three months of its financial year.

Profits were £9 million lower than the same period last year after higher interest charges. But they were above City forecasts, showing that BA had acted quickly to stem the heavy losses attributed to British Caledonian in the previous quarter.

Quarterly earnings fell from 8.1p to 7.4p per share.

Poor bookings on former BCal services due to uncertainty over the airline's future last autumn; have left the passenger load factor 8 to 9 points behind that of the former British Airways.

Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chief executive, said it had been too late to get back business on Gatwick routes for this summer. But he added that the group's new strategy for Gatwick, which includes newer aircraft and concentration at the new North terminal, would put its full marketing effort behind the old BCal routes.

Lord King, the chairman, told shareholders that group performance had been close to target and that "we have taken firm control of costs" in the former BCal operations.

Sir Colin said that there were more savings to come from 800 job losses (including 400 from the Gatwick reorganization) making a total of 2200 from the merger.

Group turnover rose by 13 per cent to £1.02 billion and airline turnover was 17 per cent up at 1989 million. Passenger numbers increased by 16 per cent to 5.7 million. Borrowing increased to more than £1 billion, mainly due to the BCal acquisition, but the business generated £181 million cash in the quarter.

BA confirmed that it wants to buy a stake in Air New Zealand, for which the New Zealand government requires bids by tonight.

Tempus, page 24

Purchases pay off for Hickson

Hickson International, the specialist chemicals and building protection group, beat forecasts by up to £1 million with a 38 per cent pre-tax profit rise to £12.05 million in the six months to end-June.

There has been takeover speculation this summer, but Mr John Marvin, the managing director, said the group was keen to remain independent.

Much of the progress came from purchases. In chemicals, there was £300,000 from Kerley Enterprises, the US group bought in June. Sayerlack, the Italian company acquired in July, contributed £1.5 million. Profits of £2.3 million (£1.5 million) from merchant distribution came largely from three acquisitions.

The interim dividend rises from 1.625p to 2.25p.

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Assets frozen in Clowes link

By Lawrence Lever

Liquidators for Barlow Clowes International, the offshore division of the crashed investment group, have frozen assets of up to £7 million held by a British Virgin Islands company called Ryeman Ltd.

This company is believed to be controlled by the uncle of Mr Guy von Cramer, the Leeds businessman.

Ernst & Whinney, the accountancy firm acting as liquidators, has obtained court orders in London and the Isle of Man freezing Ryeman's assets.

The court orders apply to any motor vehicles owned by Ryeman including a Bentley Turbo and a Porsche.

Ernst & Whinney is still seeking further information about Ryeman, which appears to be a company with enormous territorial reach.

To ensure that Ryeman was properly notified of the court orders against it, copies were sent to the British Virgin Islands, Liechtenstein, the Isle of Man and the Island of Sark.

Ernst & Whinney has also obtained a court order against the merchant bank Singer & Friedlander, with which the bank is complying.

This requires Singer to provide documents relating to accounts it holds of Ryeman. Mr von Cramer and Brodian, a company used by Mr von Cramer and Mr Peter Clowes, the head of Barlow Clowes, to take stakes in various public companies.

These manoeuvres form part of legal proceedings brought by Ernst & Whinney against Mr von Cramer, aged 27, who is Mr Clowes' erstwhile business partner. Companies associated with Mr von Cramer are alleged to have received £14 million belonging to Barlow Clowes investors.

Yesterday Mr von Cramer agreed to the continuance of a High Court order freezing his assets. The order also covers a number of companies associated with him.

The asset freezing order is part of the battle by Ernst & Whinney to recover £138 million owed to 11,000 investors by BCI.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC, for Mr von Cramer, said he wished to make clear that Mr von Cramer's consent to the orders did not involve "any retreat from his position that he rejects all allegations of wrongdoing made against him and will in due course answer such allegations as have been made."

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Harrison responds to Millicom challenge

Racal stands its ground on flotation of Vodafone

By David Brewerton

Sir Ernest Harrison is normally a man who makes himself abundantly clear but feels he has been misunderstood over his attitude towards the proposed sale of 20 per cent of Racal Telecommunications Group (RTG), better known as Vodafone, by the parent, Racal Electronics.

"He never, he says, said 'Vodafone belongs to Racal management.' What he did say, or meant to say, was 'that the Racal management who have control developed Vodafone for the benefit of the shareholders of Racal'."

"As far as I am concerned shareholders own the company, and they will decide the whole thing. I think the record shows that over the years we have acted in the best interests of shareholders. A thousand pounds invested in Racal in 1961 would be worth £500,000, and that's not a bad record."

Sir Ernest is on the defensive because his board's plans for the sale of the Vodafone stake have been challenged by Millicom, its second largest shareholder. There are signs that Millicom's alternative plan to demerge all of Vodafone, giving 90 per cent of it to existing Racal shareholders and selling the balance to raise funds, is gathering some supporters among institutional investors.

This morning, Racal shareholders will receive Sir Ernest's forthright reply to Millicom's circular sent out last week, and there is no sign of a compromise.

Racal needs funds to invest in its "two other exciting businesses," data communications and security, and Sir Ernest reckons that the partial flotation is the only way to achieve it.

"Why did we go this route? Well I think the share price answers that. When we announced the intention (to float Vodafone) the share price went up 30 per cent. Had we announced a rights issue it would have gone down by 40p. So that as we are at the moment every shareholder has about 100p standing on the share price because we chose that route."

And will that 100p pay for shareholders to take up their allotment of RTG shares?

The chances are it will. It is likely that RTG will be issued to shareholders on a one in seven basis, which, even after tax, will raise the amount needed.

The two sides have less than two weeks to win the battle of words over which scheme shareholders should vote for, and Sir Ernest has no doubts. "We shall win." He will not even countenance the suggestion that the institutions may decide to sit on the fence.

Not all the ammunition has been fired. One of the planks of the Millicom case, ably presented by its president, Mr Shelby Bryan, is that tax considerations will prevent a full demerger of RTG in the future if it is not achieved now.

"It is totally incorrect," says Sir Ernest in his latest letter to shareholders. "For Millicom to state that under current tax legislation it would be impossible. Racal could go down to 75 per cent, it claims, without attracting a tax liability."

But what if, for one reason or another, Racal should want to allow its grip to weaken any further?

Racal has an answer to that, but that will not be found in the circular. Sir Ernest has come up with the ingenious suggestion that instead of Racal demerging Vodafone, it would demerge its other interests, leaving Racal as merely the holding company for RTG.



Drumming up support: Sir Ernest Harrison of Racal

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Heywood buys 49% of Dutch company

By Alexandra Jackson

Heywood Williams, the glass and aluminium specialist, is taking its first step into Continental Europe by paying £7 million for a 49 per cent stake in a Dutch glass business, Scheuten Beheer.

A joint venture company is also being formed between Heywood Williams and Scheuten's owner, Mr Jacques Scheuten, to develop further opportunities in Europe. Heywood Williams will hold 70 per cent of the new company.

Scheuten made £1.2 million pre-tax profit in its last financial year. However, according to Mr Ralph Hinchcliffe, chairman of Heywood Williams, its profits are running 50 per cent higher this year, suggesting an exit p/e of 7 times current year earnings.

Heywood Williams reported a 44 per cent lift in pre-tax profits for the half to end-June up from £9.1 million to £13.1 million. Sales rose from £108.8 million to £133.7 million. Acquisitions provided £15.7 million of the sales increase and £1.5 million of the jump in profits.

The interim dividend rises from 3.4p to 4p. City analysts are expecting Heywood Williams to report pre-tax profits of £30 million for the full year, up from £20.2 million.

The strongest advance at the half-year stage came from the glass division which had £81 million of sales and £10.4 million of pre-tax profits compared with £55 million of sales and £7.3 million of profits last year.

Results from aluminium saw sales rise from £33 million to £36 million while profits rose from £1.8 million to £2.2 million.

The US moved back into profit following rationalization of the operation. It contributed £500,000 to profits, having broken even last year.

Acquisitions are being actively sought. However, a forward-looking capital expenditure plan is also underway. By the year end Heywood Williams expects to have spent £11 million, excluding buys, compared with £7 million in 1987.

£3.3m deal

Polly Peck International, the acquisitive trading group headed by Mr Asil Nadir, is buying Joseph Le Shark, a textile marketing group, for £3.3 million. Under the agreement, Le Shark shareholders will receive 1.09 million new Polly Peck ordinary shares.

Mecca faces hard ride on road to Pleasurama

COMMENT David Brewerton

Little did the analysts who accompanied Michael Guthrie along Streatham High Road a couple of years ago guess that their guide to the high spots of the Mecca empire would one day bid for their then favourite company. Mecca is now a generation away from the Morleys and a much bigger fish than when it was flung out of Grand Metropolitan less than two years ago, but the bid for Pleasurama is a move which has only a marginal chance of success. Pleasurama, on the other hand, is no longer the market's darling.

Mecca had hoped to put on a bit more muscle before going for a group which is considerably larger than itself. The acquisitions have been fast and furious, but it is a measure of the size difference between the two companies that when all the convertible preference are converted, former shareholders of Pleasurama will have 72 per cent of the enlarged Mecca equity. Mecca shareholders the remainder.

Last year, after substantive talks (which were rumoured at the time but not admitted), Pleasurama told Mecca to run away and play. There is no prospect that its attitude will be any different this time around.

The timing of Mecca's bid is not of Mr Guthrie's choosing. It has been dictated by Pleasurama's proposed acquisition of Hard Rock, which is costing £63 million

and is not reckoned by Mr Guthrie to be an appropriate deal. Shareholders in Pleasurama meet a week today to consider the Hard Rock deal, and they will be voting themselves into a £127 million rights issue at the same time.

It is difficult to see how Mecca can hope to succeed. The share exchange offer is not underwritten by cash, and if Mecca raises its terms, as it will have to win Pleasurama shareholders, it is likely that Mecca will simply fall further and leave no increase at all in the final value.

There is the possibility, of course, that one of the fat capital investment houses will ride in to offer underwriting, which could support the Mecca price. But even that is no guarantee of success.

The reality of the bid is that shareholders are being offered their own shares back in a new wrapping, with a change of management. Pleasurama has not been the most popular share in the market and Michael Guthrie may have a hot track record, but there is unlikely to be enough in the current offer to persuade investors to change sides.

But Pleasurama should nevertheless take on board that the market is ready for a global player in the leisure business which is neither hotels nor drinks. Perhaps the tables should be turned on Mecca, and Pleasurama make the bid. It would make a lot more sense than Hard Rock.

The problems facing PWS

Yet another insurance broker appears to have put itself into play as a potential takeover candidate. Discomfort in the insurance market is a regular experience, but it has turned into real pain for PWS and remedies may have to be drastic.

Driving ambition is not a feature of most insurance companies and there was an element of "I told you so" permeating the market at the news of the youthful Ronnie Ben-Zur's abrupt departure as PWS chairman. Mr Ben-Zur was not well liked. His abrasive manner and somewhat high-handed style with competitors and colleagues meant that few, even in PWS, mourned his going.

But there was also an air of inevitability about the company's problems. PWS was only one of several insurance brokers pulling themselves out of the doldrums caused by poor markets and low premium rates. Companies like Sedgwick and Steel Burill Jones have chosen the cautious path of gradual, organic expansion, laced with the occasional acquisition. PWS, in contrast, preferred the grand gesture.

It was clocking up nearly two takeovers or attempted takeovers a year. At that rate, it is hard to hit the target every time. In fact, it has missed twice, at heavy cost. The failed bid for CE

Heath in 1986 cost some £1.2 million — a lot of money for a company with profits of £8.4 million for the year. At that stage the company seemed to be ready to rein back its acquisitive instincts. But no.

The second miss is Glenn, Nyhan & Associates, such a highly specialized US broking business that, arguably, a British company should never have touched it. PWS's interim profits had slumped to £2.2 million this year, largely because of adverse conditions in the US. On top of that comes the £4 million loss discovered in GNA.

These losses will wipe out this year's profit for PWS, hence the 50p fall in the company's shares to 150p. But then there is the question of what Mr Ben-Zur plans to do with his family's 42 per cent stake. The strongest possibility must be that he will try to sell it. With the full extent of the US problems still unknown, who will want to buy? (PWS claimed, after all, that it had sorted everything out in June). The answer is, probably, no one — at least for a while. The PWS management has a lot of sorting out to do before it can convince the market that it is clean and healthy. Even if it sells the offending GNA, there will still be doubts about how well integrated the other parts of the business really are.

Profit leap to £2.4m at Finlan

By Colin Campbell

Finlan Group, the diversified property developer and materials handling concern, is raising its final dividend from 2.2p to 2.5p, a share, making an annual total of 4.5p (4p), after turning in pre-tax profits of £2.38 million for the year ended March 31, compared with £1.51 million previously.

Turnover rose from £24.9 million to £33.6 million after what Mr David Rippon, the managing director, says was a "year of intense activity and expansion."

In March, Finlan raised £3.1 million through a placement of 4.77 million shares at 72p each which helped fund the acquisitions of UCM Timber Group, JC Gilbert, a trader in animal by-products, and Midtown Properties, together with central London property interests of the WCRS Group.

"These companies will produce a valuable contribution to results," the board adds. In June, Finlan announced it was subscribing, over a two-year period, to 18.4 per cent of Retail Corporation through which the group's property interests are expanded into garden centre stores.

Finlan New Homes, established in 1987 as a separate division, had a workload with a potential final sales value of £10 million in hand.

The shares rose 2p to 90p.

MMC chief questions EEC mergers powers

By Wolfgang Münchau

Mr Sydney Lipworth, chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, has attacked EEC plans for a common mergers and monopolies policy. On the 40th anniversary of the Monopolies and Restrictive Practices Act, under which the MMC was formed six months later in 1949, he said: "It is by no means certain that the powers of the Community are as strong as they believe."

Mr Lipworth's comments follow this week's decision by Mr Peter Sutherland, the Irish EEC Commissioner for competition policy, to block the bid for Irish Distillers by GC&C, a drinks consortium which includes Guinness, Grand Metropolitan and Allied-Lyons.

Mr Sutherland's move is seen as reaffirming his determination to wrest control of mergers policy in the run-up to a Commission meeting in the autumn, which is likely to decide the future of EEC merger policy. The Government has voiced its opposition to Mr Sutherland's plans, which if adopted would have serious implications for the MMC and Takeover Panel.

At present, the Commission's powers in mergers and acquisitions policy originate from Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty of Rome. The EEC has previously only intervened after the national authorities reached a verdict but Mr Sutherland wants to be allowed to vet mergers in advance.

Mr Lipworth gave warning that "they need to consider what kind of set-up they require to look at proposed mergers in a short period of time. Over the last years the MMC has reduced the average time for a merger investigation from six to four months. In his view the length of an investigation should be kept at a minimum. He fears the period of uncertainty for companies and investors may rise drastically once mergers are subject to EEC bureaucracy."

"Everyone agrees that EEC mergers policy is a good thing," he said. "But no one knows exactly how it should be set up." Mr Lipworth believes too much hot air has been created around 1992. "Europe may not be a single market yet but it is already a Common Market. So the difference is merely one of degree rather than principle."

The MMC's latest booklet, *The Role of the Commission*, published by HMSO Publications, is available at bookstores for £1.25.

Global fraud law nears

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US Congress is close to finalizing legislation for the first co-ordinated international regulatory response to recent bond securities frauds.

Mr David Ruder, the chairman of the Securities & Exchange Commission, testified this week that his agency urgently needs a "modern regulatory mechanism" to cope with rising fraud and violations caused by the internationalization of markets.

He said that the volume of US equity securities purchased or sold from abroad had soared from \$25.6 billion (£15.05 billion) in 1977 to \$481.5 billion in 1987.

The SEC has endorsed legislation approved by a Senate committee and now under consideration by the US House which would grant the agency broader powers to co-operate with foreign governments on domestic violations and to prosecute US citizens found transgressing foreign securities laws.

Once the legislation is approved, the SEC will use it to negotiate a number of memorandums of understanding with foreign governments on the policing of securities violations.

The SEC currently has reciprocal agreements with the governments of Britain, Switzerland, Japan, three provinces in Canada and Brazil.

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Mr Markey predicted that the House would complete action on the proposed International Securities Enforcement Co-operation Act of

Clowes is bailed until January

From Bailey Morris, Washington

1988 in this session of Congress and go to conference with the Senate before adjournment for the elections.

The Bill would provide the SEC with three new tools to both initiate investigations and take sanctions against violators. For the first time it would grant to the agency the power to aid foreign governments which request assistance in their own investigations regardless of whether the SEC has a similar investigation underway.

Mr Ruder said that he was confident that once the SEC has the discretion to "help foreign authorities pursue criminals" then other nations will reciprocate.

In addition, it would grant waivers, in specified cases, of the comprehensive US Freedom of Information Act in order to protect the confidentiality of records produced by the SEC on behalf of foreign governments.

Mr Ruder said that due to the current broad reach of the Act, many foreign governments will not co-operate with the United States on investigations.

A third provision of the Bill will allow the SEC to take tough action against violations of securities laws based on investigations by foreign government authorities. At the present time, the SEC cannot act unless it has a similar investigation underway.

Global fraud law nears

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US Congress is close to finalizing legislation for the first co-ordinated international regulatory response to recent bond securities frauds.

Mr David Ruder, the chairman of the Securities & Exchange Commission, testified this week that his agency urgently needs a "modern regulatory mechanism" to cope with rising fraud and violations caused by the internationalization of markets.

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Hoare's leaving party

By Michael Col

The five men who left the mergers and acquisitions department of Hoare Govett — the broker owned by the big Californian bank Security Pacific — at the end of last week have run into the strong arm of American-style lawyers. Bound for Swiss Bank Corp, the team of five, headed by Peter Large, handed in their notice to the firm's American chief executive Peter Voss, and were instantly dispatched, in customary City fashion, to "sit in their gardens."

But some of them have, I hear, since been summoned back to the firm's Broadgate headquarters for an embarrassing grilling with in-house legal staff who claim that various documents and computer discs — which the lawyers maintain belong to Hoare Govett and contain client information — cannot now be located. Some of the departing employees — still technically employed by Hoare — helpfully dredged up token pieces of paper to satisfy the demands. But they were, I hear, completely thrown when asked to sign a statement categorically denying that they had anything at home which might have belonged to the firm. A number of additional documents have, I am told, now surfaced.

On form

British Airways could soon find a growing number of disillusioned cricket fans among its shareholders. At yesterday's press conference at

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Scots shoot for Ivory

If the Scottish fund management community is less active than usual today it could be because most of them are out shooting. As a means of getting in some practice a week before the Glorious Twelfth, Ronnie Maxwell, marketing manager for Ivory & Sims in Scotland, has gathered some 30 teams together — all put up by brokers and fund management firms — for a charity clay pigeon shoot

in the grounds of Harburn House, West Calder, between Edinburgh and Glasgow. "I thought it would be nice to get the financial community together to do something for charity, especially a week before the grouse season starts," Maxwell says. He is charging each team £100 to enter and hopes to raise at least £2,500 for The Prince's Trust, which helps young entrepreneurs.

Dunlop, the finance director explained: "In cricket parlance, the more runs you can put on the board by June the better your end-of-season batting average." When a witty hack quipped: "Gordon, with simple logic like that, you should be chairman of the England cricket selectors," Sir Colin retorted: "He couldn't do any worse."

Frank Davis, managing director of glass manufacturer Rockware, is not in the habit of writing to his milkman. But he left a note out this morning, after discovering that milk was being delivered to his new HQ in London's Chandos Street in cartons, while neighbouring Metal Box was receiving bottles — made by Rockware. The note apparently requested that Rockware's milk be delivered likewise.

"Mind you, inheriting Reagan's economic policies could soon have him on the shrink's couch."

Carol Leonard

Chartered up to £11m

Chartered Trust, the consumer finance arm of Standard Chartered Bank, yesterday announced a 29 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30, from £8.5 million to £11 million.

The company said that while bad debt experience continued to be satisfactory, the trading performance of all its divisions was strong. Areas experiencing an increase in lending volumes included motor finance, personal lending, property lending and contract hire.

Seabright bid

A wholly owned subsidiary of the Australian Western Mining group has started an action in Ontario Supreme Court against the former directors of Seabright Resources for Can\$60 million (£29 million). The bid arises out of the former directors' alleged failure to ensure that the public record of Seabright was maintained accurately as required by the Ontario Securities Act.

Aurora bid

Aurora has declared its cash bid for North British Steel wholly unconditional after receiving acceptances for 60.1 per cent of shares and buying 19 per cent. The offer remains open until further notice.

Honorbilt buy

Honorbilt Group is acquiring the school outerwear specialist A Zigles & Son, including its freehold property for £700,000 cash.



Ruder: "modern mechanism"

was the chairman of the House hearings, said that the recent charges filed against Mr Stephen Wang, an analyst for Morgan Stanley, the investment house, and Mr Fred Lee, a Taiwanese investor, demonstrated the need for tougher rules.

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Mr Peter Clowes, former head of the crashed Barlow Clowes investment group, was further remanded on £300,000 bail when he appeared before City of London magistrates yesterday.

During a five-minute hearing, Mr Clowes, who arrived at court in a Mercedes with his new solicitor Mr Ian Burton, was bailed conditionally to appear again at Guildhall Magistrates' Court on January 9, 1989.

Two sureties totalling £300,000 were continued from his last court appearance in June.

Mr Clowes is charged with perverting the course of justice between November 25, 1987 and January 31 this year, by causing or procuring the destruction of some documents and the creation of certain false documents.

Identical bail conditions were applied as in Mr Clowes's June appearance. These prevent him from contacting past or present Barlow Clowes employees or clients except at the behest and in the presence of Cork Gully, the accountancy firm, or DJ Freeman, solicitor for Cork.

Mr Clowes is also prevented from contacting past or present financial intermediaries who recommended Barlow Clowes' products except with permission of the Serious Fraud Office.

Briton remanded on shares charge

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

A British national, Mr Andrew Chapman, aged 32, who was arrested in France with two other men. The Swiss authorities are seeking their extradition.

The arrests were made last week in swoops by Swiss and French police. Seven people are held in France, among them an American, Mr Thomas Quinn, aged 50.

Mr Chapman, Geneva-born and also with Australian nationality, is director of the Geneva office of Kettler Investment, a Vaduz, Liechtenstein, registered concern. The declared purpose of the office, opened in January last year, is the "purchase and sale of shares and services associated therewith".

He holds a similar post at Falcontrust Financial, set up in November, 1985, and at Equity Management Services, registered in January 1987, whose office was moved from Geneva to the nearby town of Nyon last January.

According to his lawyers, Mr Chapman, who is married with a family, was unaware of any of the alleged illegalities in the activities of those concerns. They say he has no formal economic or financial qualifications.

The lawyer for Mrs Davies, who holds both Swiss and British nationality, says she, too, denies any connection.

Police and Interpol have been working on the case for several months.

Earlier this year a "collector", allegedly working on behalf of Kettler Investment, was arrested in Malmö, Sweden, and accused of having taken 890,000 kronor (£85,000) of Swedish clients' money out of the country in violation of exchange control regulations.

There is also believed to have been a lucrative association with investors in some of the affluent Gulf countries.

David Young compares the relative profit performance of the 12 area boards which supply England and Wales

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 C G Wilson, S F Worral
 Wright
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Edited by Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

A runaway success with a cleaning iron

By Ian A Jack

Michael Savage, aged 35, and his 30-year-old wife Sandra are ironing their way through a mini-mountain of clothes while smoothing the way to a brighter future for their own business.

The business, aptly-titled Press Gang, is all about making money from doing the chore most women hate.

At their home in Stapleford, Nottingham, Mr and Mrs Savage are dashing away with the smoothing iron from morning to late evening.

The ironing is other people's and so appealing is the idea that already a back-up team of women home ironers has been recruited to handle the weight of work.

The concept began as Mrs Savage's brainchild. It came to her

when she and her husband were living in the Whitehaven area of Cumbria but was never put into practice because, as she says, "there wasn't the population in those parts to justify it."

The Savages had arrived in Cumbria from the East Midlands when Mr Savage was enticed to a building job that quickly failed.

Fishing on the beach to earn a precarious living, he met a man who persuaded him to train as an industrial radiographer, after which Mr Savage worked on the extensions to Sellafield nuclear complex. His wife helped to set up the community programme in Whitehaven.

They lived in an old house which had once been part of a brewery. Michael said: "The idea was to sell

the house and invest it in a business of our own. I had started dealing in antiques and planned to develop that when we returned to the Midlands."

What happened in reality was that Press Gang took off so quickly after their return to the Nottingham area that Mr Savage was pressed into service to help his wife. "I'm the delivery boy," he jokes, "but I also do some ironing."

To help set up the business both obtained a £40 a week enterprise allowance. Capital investment was in a press and an estate car for deliveries. They also advertised in local newspapers.

Customers soon started telephoning. There are now well over 100 regulars, each paying £5 to have 10lbs of clothes collected, ironed and returned.

Some clients send shirts for ironing at 30p each; nurses send uniforms; dentists their gowns, restaurants and pubs their table cloths.

"But much of our business comes from small families with parents out at work and children at school," says Mr Savage.

Now with about £2,000 in monthly turnover, six local women have been recruited to provide back-up as the ironing piles mount. Two more will be taken on shortly — and Mrs Savage's mother is already prepared to help out.

The Savages are looking forward



The Press Gang: Michael Savage and his wife, who are making a profit from taking in others' washing

to further expansion and to see the next step as a shop where they can concentrate their work with living accommodation above it.

Both are warm in their praise of the Enterprise Allowance Scheme for giving them the underpinning which has made the business launch possible.

"I would recommend the scheme to anyone and say have a go," says Mrs Savage. "And that goes, too, for starting an ironing service. It seems we are meeting a need."

● Contact: Press Gang, 38 Brookhill Street, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 7BS; (0602) 397987.

British Rail branches out on community aid

By Derek Harris

British Rail is expanding its community aid programme, which should add a wide range of premises, both offices and workshops, for use mostly by smaller businesses.

The advantages to small firms will flow from a BR board decision to set up a community unit to act as a focal point for community and partnership projects, some of them already underway. A fund with an initial budget of £2.5 million has been set up by BR to finance the work of the unit which will be giving a priority to inner city schemes.

BR is probably best known as a source of smaller premises because of its development of the 8,000 viaduct arches it has around the country. But this was entirely a commercial project.

The emphasis has been different at Horwicks, near Bolton, Lancashire, following the closure of a BR engineering works there. In a link with Bolton Business Ventures £500,000 has been injected over three years, partly to furnish premises to encourage businesses which could produce jobs. So far about 550 new jobs have been created.

Existing schemes like this will be taken over by the new BR unit. Another which is already being developed is at Lincoln where with a local enterprise agency an

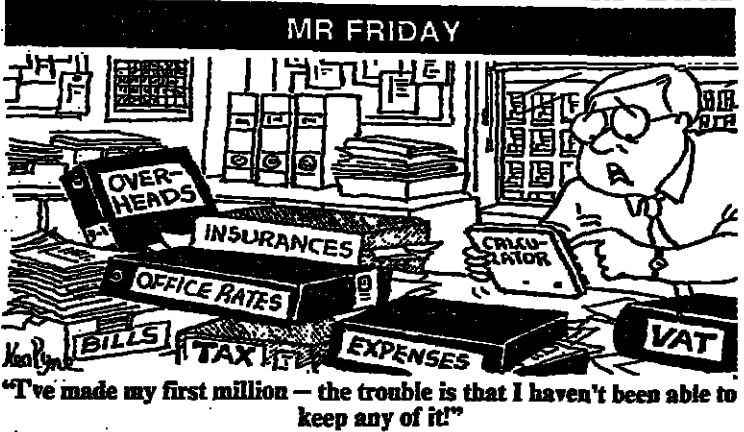
innovation centre has been set up, with the involvement of the local authority and the Training Commission, where facilities include 11 starter units for young firms.

There have been job-creation programmes, involving cash injections of up to £2 million each, at Shildon, County Durham, Swindon, Glasgow and Doncaster. At Burton on Trent collaboration between BR and the East Staffordshire District Council resulted in a former grain warehouse being converted into start-up workshops and a home for the Burton Enterprise Agency.

BR is exploring the possibility of setting up a work premises project in the North-East with British Steel Industry, which is the jobs-creation arm of the British Steel Corporation.

BR has an extensive secondment programme with more than 30 managers currently in the field helping local job initiatives. Many work with local enterprise agencies concentrating on encouraging smaller businesses. Iris Lemon, a BR seconded in charge of Brent Business Venture in London, is one of the half dozen women who are local enterprise agency directors around the country.

● Contact: James Crowe, BR community unit, at (01) 928 5151



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Board must get back on medals track

COMMENTARY



David Miller
Chief Sports Correspondent

The most important event of the Kodak/TSB Olympic trials takes place today, tomorrow or on Sunday at the Alexander Stadium, but in a Birmingham hotel on Monday morning when the selectors will confront the British Board of Control and its perverse, misdirected selection policy. There is every possibility that six members of the selection committee will emphatically win a tug of war against the seventh, Ewan Murray, who is chairman of the board.

It must certainly be hoped they will win. The board's decision taken against the advice of all specialist opinion, is, though legitimate to a degree, a policy which is potentially destructive to Britain's prestige and the Olympic Games. Murray's challenge to any selector who disagrees with the policy — the first two past the post to qualify — to resign, aimed primarily at Frank Dick, the national chief coach, was an appallingly inept piece of management and public

relations. Five of the selectors — Dick and the four team managers — are those who will be closest to the teams in Seoul.

Equally inept has been the regular pronouncements by Tony Ward, spokesperson for the British board who has triple-jumped from one Press statement to another in defence of a discreditable policy. There must be no room for sentiment, Ward has trumpeted.

Those athletes least looking for sentiment are the most experienced, most realistic of competitors, previous medal winners in

international competition: some of whom, such as Cram, Coe, Backner, Sanderson and Whitbread, face exclusion from the Games on account of the board's policy.

There were three reasons why the board may have adopted their miscalculated plan for selection trials, none of them confirmed, all of them likely: the alleged failure of the elite pre-selection system at last year's world championships in Rome; the wish to give those able but less prominent competitors an unequivocal route to selection and the valued Olympic privilege of taking part; and, critically, the need to boost the televised AAA championships into a major event at which all the top competitors would be obliged to be present.

The board deny the latter reason, even though Richard Russell, of ITV, sits on the promotions committee. If ITV did not specifically suggest the trials, it certainly demanded the weekend three-day

schedule which prohibits middle-distance doubling-up.

ITV has spent £10 million on securing domestic athletics coverage, and the hype preceding today's meeting has steadily grown to fever pitch. This week's Press release from the board's publicity office significantly begins: "British athletes this week contemplate the greatest and most important domestic meeting since the war."

The most important, that is, for all but those who have the best chance of winning medals in Seoul and earning Britain's prestige; and whose minutely detailed, sensitively scheduled preparations are compromised, if not fundamentally damaged, by having to produce an artificial peak six weeks before the Games, something which is less of an impediment to lesser athletes.

The unarguable fact is that any nation has only a handful of exceptional competitors with that rare combination of ability and character, of technique and mental

resolution, that withstands Olympic competition to win a medal; and then all the rest. To promote the interests of the rest above that of the potential medal winners is strangely short-sighted, for it is the medal winners who ultimately establish the prosperity and standards of the sport, who establish the prestige that television subsequently wishes to buy. ITV will have not the slightest future interest in some of those competitors whom the circumstances of the trials will send to Seoul, by the accident of one result on one particular day.

Potential medal winners are a precious commodity, and it is paramount that they should be given every consideration and assistance; far more than those who will make the team and then finish with dignity, out of sight in Seoul. It is absurd of Ward to say, on television on Tuesday night, that competitors should be selected only by the measuring tape, and that if

Backner is not fit, "there are three great athletes waiting to take his place". That is demonstrably untrue. Ward talks of old lions (redundant, he presumes) and young awaiting cubs: the sentiment is his, not the selectors'.

In spite of the failure of Cram, Thompson and McKean in Rome, Britain finished fourth in the world, one place better than in the first world championships in Helsinki. The last time the present selection policy was used, for the 1976 Olympic Games, Britain achieved one bronze medal, by Brendan Foster.

The present system, if rigidly maintained, will not need any useless athletes to Seoul, but to win medals Britain must send its established elite. And may not, whatever the elite do or do not achieve in Birmingham. Not to send them will be a calamity for the individual, for the sport and for Britain.

Trials preview, page 35

END COLUMN

Coach barred from poolside

By Steven Downes

The 38 swimmers in Britain's Olympic team leave today for a two-week training camp in Marseille, France, to hone their fitness towards the peaks which will be demanded in Seoul. Meanwhile, the coach to one member of the team has been forced to stay at home, not because of lack of finance or sponsorship, but because the team management has made it clear that his presence there would not be welcome.

Paddy Hayes is the man who has turned Kevin Boyd over from backstroke to freestyle swimmer. Boyd, from the Borough of South Tyneside Club, is the British record holder and has been selected for the 400 and 1,500 free-style events in Seoul where, if he performs up to the promise he showed at the beginning of this summer, he could be one of Britain's handful of Olympic finalists.

Hayes, aged 57, has been coaching swimmers, including a number of internationals, for three decades. "For three years, Kevin and I have been working towards him winning a medal at the Olympics," Hayes says, "and at the most crucial time, he is taken away out of my hands. That's a blow, but I am a coach, not a swimmer, and I am not going to let it stop me from winning medals."

Council's funding under a cloud

Hayes's employers, the local council, had arranged for a £500 sponsorship from a local printing firm to send the coach to France, but two weeks ago Hayes's request to attend the camp received a categorical "no" from Gerry Thain, the team manager.

That rejection "hurt me a bit," Hayes says, "and it has also put the council's substantial funding of the swimming programme under a cloud. They feel slighted, too," Hayes says.

Hurt and slighted, but not surprised, Hayes was encouraged to request to attend the camp by one of the six staff coaches who will be accompanying the team, but Hayes was reluctant: "I had a gut feeling that they'd turn me down." Precedent also indicated that he would receive a negative response. In 1984, Mike Higgs, the flamboyant coach of Olympic medal winner, Sarah Hardcastle, had to battle against the British team officials in order to obtain accreditation to be with his swimmer in Los Angeles.

It is a conflict between coaches and administration which occurs all too often in British swimming, but Hayes does seem to be changing. At the suggestion of the coaches, the

Hayes's abortive trip to Marseille

timetable of last week's TSB National Championships in Leeds was unusually structured, with heats in the evening and the finals at lunchtime the following day, mimicking the programme in Seoul.

Also at Leeds, the British Swimming Coaches' Association carried out a quick poll which drew some interesting results in view of Hayes's abortive trip to Marseille. Thirteen leading coaches, many with several swimmers who made the British team, were asked a two-part question: Should coaches of Great Britain's selected swimmers be allowed to accompany their swimmers (a) at training camps; (b) at meets?

The response to (a) was unanimously in favour. On (b), 10 voted for, three against. All three dissenters are British team staff coaches.

At the announcement of the British team earlier this week Thain defended the present policy of not allowing individuals' coaches on to pool-side at camps, saying: "It is essential that the team is working as a unit and working with a group coach. We feel that there is a place there for individual coaches for all of that period. We do already have a large coaching staff."

In the past week, the team management does seem to have been treading water on the subject. Thain has sent a letter to all involved coaches saying they would be welcome to visit at Crystal Palace, when the team trains there before leaving for South Korea, and Hickson has been in touch with all the coaches, including Hayes, asking for their advice and suggestions.

Young trio adds a twist to the old, old story

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

THE OVAL (England won toss): England have scored 203 for nine wickets against West Indies

Any England supporter convincing himself that the present is dead and only the future matters might have left the Oval last night feeling faintly encouraged. The majority, anxious to see the present series end with a genuine contest, will have gone home thoroughly disappointed.

For all the succour offered by the disciplined batting of three relative novices in Curtis, Bailey and Smith, England ended the opening day of the final Cornhill Test in familiar strife. The groundsman, Harry Brind, true to his promise, has produced the best pitch of the series and England are about 150 short of a competitive score.

There were stages when the spring-like optimism which comes with a fresh young side looked as if it might be justified. Curtis and Bailey added 65 for the second wicket, Bailey and Smith 39 for the third, Smith and Capel 39 for the fifth. But each time the bat threatened to control the ball, this relentless West Indian attack pulled England back as if they were a mischievous dog on a strong lead.

Ambrose, a bowler of impressive control, dismissed three of the top five to increase his score for the series to 21. Marshall, getting into the action unusually late, took two more to equal the West Indian record for wickets in a series. Even the off-spin of Harper, previously exercised by only two overs in this series, claimed three wickets in a long spell from the pavilion end.

Smith, playing only his

SCOREBOARD FROM THE OVAL

England won toss

ENGLAND

First Innings

	6s	4s	Mins	Runs	Wickets
G A Gooch c Logie b Ambrose	30	4	155	121	1
T S Curtis c Dujon b Benjamin	43	3	203	144	1
R A Bailey c Dujon b Ambrose	57	8	210	102	1
R A Smith c Harper b Marshall	16	2	40	40	4
M J Maynard c Dujon b Ambrose	1	0	1	5	4
D J Capel c Marshall b Harper	1	0	1	16	1
T C J Richards c Logie b Harper	1	0	1	26	1
D R Pringle c Dujon b Marshall	1	0	1	13	5
P A J DeFreitas c Haynes b Harper	1	0	1	5	5
N A Foster not out	5	1	13	5	5
N J O'Brien not out	5	1	13	5	5
Extras (8 b, 15)	21				
Total (9 wickets, 90 overs)	203				

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-77, 3-116, 4-121, 5-160, 6-180, 7-165, 8-196, 9-198.
BOWLING: Marshall 24-3-62-2 (nb 3); Ambrose 20-6-31-3 (nb 8); Walsh 10-1-21-0 (nb 6); Benjamin 14-2-33-1; Harper 21-7-50-3; Hooper 1-1-0-0.

WEST INDIES

C G Greenidge, D L Haynes, C L Hooper, T V A Richards, A L Logie, P L J Dujon, R A Harper, M D Marshall, C E L Ambrose, W K M Benjamin, C A Walsh.
Umpires: H D Bird and K E Palmer.

second Test, sustained English hopes for almost four hours. It was a dedicated, teeth-gritting innings, flowering only spasmodically into the belligerence for which he is known but, in the day's penultimate over, he was cut down for 57. His dismissal, caught at slip off a glove which appeared to have been withdrawn from the bat, was a shade contentious but Smith should be consoled by the certain knowledge that he has booked his winter in India.

The same should be said of Curtis and Bailey. They scored only 30 and 43 respectively, hardly grounds for a lap of honour in normal circumstances. This summer, however, circumstances have been anything but normal and, given the siege which seems permanently placed on the England dressing-room, they coped admirably.

Curtis was soon having to do without his captain and senior partner, Gooch, having chosen to bat on a sunlit morning, was undone by the extra bounce generated by

Ambrose on this firm pitch. In trying to play the ball down, he contrived only to loop it gently to short leg.

Once the hardness had left the ball, however, there was little assistance for the quick bowlers and three hooked fours by Curtis, two of them from consecutive balls by Marshall, indicated a lack of pace in the pitch. Bailey, whose first instinct is invariably to get forward, showed that he is no mug on the back foot and by lunchtime there were some contented smiles on an England balcony which briefly contained the figure of Mike Gatting.

A modest spell from Marshall in early afternoon suggested that the West Indies might be ailing. We should have known better. Benjamin found the outside edge of Curtis's bat with an inswinger. He had batted 2½ hours and was out at a time when he looked particularly secure. For England's batsmen, that has been the way of it all summer. Smith made a grand entrance, fiercely hooking his

first ball for four, then on-driving the next for three. It was not, as it turned out, the signal for an assault but it was the mark of a man who already looks at ease at this level.

Bailey fell in the last over of the session, his footwork lacking against a ball of no particular menace. Maynard was at least excused until after tea but it clearly did nothing for his nerves. He awkwardly negotiated a bouncer first ball, was almost run out from his second and was dropped at short leg off his third. Three runs from a gift full toss failed to calm him and when Ambrose dropped short again he flashed instinctively and was caught behind.

Around this time, Smith was utterly bemused, managing only one run in an hour. He finally emerged to prosper against Harper, whose action still looks stiff and robotic. Two successive fours made Smith only the fifth Englishman to reach 50 in the series but just when it seemed Harper would have to be replaced, he dismissed Capel and Richards in consecutive overs.

Richards did no more than he had at Headingley to support the quaint notion that he should play ahead of Russell on his batting ability. Fringle, still too high at No 8, was so bamboozled by Marshall that he tried to leave the field through the wrong gate. DeFreitas gloved the spinner to silly point and Smith's demise completed a miserable hour in which five wickets fell for 38.

The Test on TV

CRICKET: BBC 10.55 a.m.-1.05 p.m., 1.35-6.10 p.m. (includes golf). Highlights: 11.15 p.m. BBC1 1.50-10 p.m. WEATHER: Cloudy start with drizzle; sunny spells developing; wind south-west, light to moderate; warmer, maximum temperatures 20-24°C (68-74°F).

Gatting not likely to contest fine

Mike Gatting is unlikely to contest the record £5,000 fine imposed by the Test and County Cricket Board on Wednesday. The former England captain has 28 days to appeal against the punishment.

Gatting — found guilty of breaching his tour contract for writing about last winter's events in Pakistan — spent yesterday morning watching play at the Oval. When asked about the disciplinary committee's verdict, he said: "I have nothing to say at the moment." But when pressed about the likelihood of an appeal, he added: "I shouldn't think so."

Austin plans singles return

From Barry Wood, San Diego

Tracy Austin, the former world No. 1 tennis player, is preparing to make a comeback to full-time singles after an absence of nearly five years. Now aged 25, seven years on from her last US Open title win, she said yesterday: "It was always in my mind that I would come back. There wasn't one day when I didn't think that I would."

After competing with Robin White, her fellow-American, in a Virginia Slims first-round doubles match here, Austin explained: "I really got a strong desire at Wimbledon to play again and my body was finally getting healed."

Austin is the only player, other than Steffi Graf, to reach

world No. 1 during the dominant reign of Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert. Twice a Wimbledon semi-finalist, she became the youngest player to win the US Open at the age of 16 years and nine months in 1979.

Although losing 7-6, 6-4 to Betsy Nagelsen and Dinky Van Rensberg yesterday, Austin looked alert and showed no signs of the back injury that interrupted her career in 1983. She attempted a comeback in 1984 but it lasted only two tournaments, both ending in second-round defeats.

She intends to play doubles again next week and partner Ken Flach in the mixed doubles at the US Open later

this month. Then she will turn her mind to singles. "I know I still have a long way to go and there's a lot of room for improvement, but I'm excited," she said.

In the singles here, Britain's Jo Durie defeated Cammy MacGregor 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 to reach the quarter-finals.

Results, page 35

● The world No. 1, Steffi Graf, will compete in the World Championship Series tournament at the Brighton Centre from October 23 to 30. The Wimbledon champion, from West Germany, won the Brighton tournament in 1986, beating Sweden's Catarina Lindqvist.

SPORT IN BRIEF

French hit tour plans

Paris (AFP) — South Africa's hopes of organizing a rebel Rugby Union tour by an unofficial World XV took a new blow yesterday when Albert Ferrasse, the French federation president, announced that he had persuaded his players not to go.

That left the South African organizers with only one firm acceptance to the individual invitations they sent out. Ian Williams, of Australia, has gone to Johannesburg against the advice of his Government, but though other Australian players were said to be tempted, few of the world's top players are likely to join him.

Squash clash

England have arranged a squash fixture with Finland, ranked third in Europe, for Welwyn Garden City on August 15. The team will be selected from the Reebok youth squad.

Laing deposited

Adelaide (Reuters) — Tony Laing, of Britain, lost his Commonwealth light-weight boxing title when outpointed by Lester Ellis, of Australia, yesterday.

Kelly's ride

Sean Kelly, the world No. 1 cyclist, will be riding for the Sportlife team in the Kellogg's Tour of Britain next week. The Irishman, who is looking to extend his lead at the top of the world rankings, will be eager to atone for his disappointing performance in the Tour de France, when he finished 62nd. Stephen Roche is also riding in the Tour of Britain, which starts in Newcastle on August 9 and finishes in Westminster on August 14.

Living apart

Seoul (AP) — Athletes from such warring nations as Iran and Iraq will be housed as far apart as possible in the Olympic village, and each of the village's 82 buildings will have its own separate security, officials said. The village is expected to house about 13,000 athletes and officials from 161 nations for the biggest Olympics.

Shortlist best not picked for Olympics

Virginia Peters and Tilburg, who finished highest out of all the Olympic shortlisted riders at their final trial last month, have been left out of the Olympic dressage team for Seoul announced yesterday (Jenny MacArthur writes).

The team of four is headed by Jennie Loriston-Clarke, a veteran of three Olympic Games, who will ride Dutch Gold, a son of her former top horse, Dutch Courage and her partner in the 1986 World Championships and the 1987 European Championships.

Tricia Gardiner (Willy Imp) and Diana Mason (Prince Consort), who were also in last year's championship team, have retained their places.

Willy Imp having recovered from the leg injury which kept him out of the final trial.

BRITISH DRESSAGE TEAM: Dutch Gold (J Loriston-Clarke), Willy Imp (Tr Gardiner), Prince Consort (D Mason), Krait (B Hartmann), Non-Committing (Peters 16-burg) V Peters.

Wimbledon are put in the dock once again

The FA Cup winners, Wimbledon, have been ordered to make yet another appearance before an FA disciplinary commission to explain their poor disciplinary record last season.

A suspended fine of £5,000 imposed last year has been activated and they face further punishment at Lancaster Gate, on November 28, when club officials will be asked to explain last season's bookings and sendings-off.

The club has been ordered to explain a bad record after each of the past eight seasons. Last year they were fined £3,000 and given a £5,000 suspended fine. Blackpool have been fined £2,000 for

their poor record last season. ● Newport County, the former fourth division club, today lost their Somerset Park ground as bailiffs moved in to repossess it on behalf of the local borough council, which is owed £23,000 in rent arrears. Staff of the club were evicted and the ground was locked up.

But the club's three London-based directors say it will continue and their spokesman, Maurice Salway, said: "Football will continue in Newport no matter what hurdles must be overcome." Yesterday the former Welsh international, John Mahoney, took over as manager.

● Paul Stewart and Paul Gascoigne, Tottenham Hotspur's big-money summer signings, will return from a tour of Sweden today to receive a "pay up or else" warning from the FA, because they still owe fines imposed on them for misconduct last season.

Highlights are next dilemma in TV battle

The unprecedented split of televised FA Cup and League football action between the BBC and ITV looks poised to create several interesting dilemmas.

Where, for example, will the BBC obtain clips of League action from their Saturday lunchtime *Football Focus* and how will ITV lay their hands on FA Cup highlights for their equivalent *Saint and Greavsie* show?

John Bromley, the head of ITV Sport, said yesterday: "We have not addressed the problem yet and we won't until Monday when the contract is rubber-stamped. But presumably we might want some FA Cup action for *Saint and Greavsie* and I'm sure we will sit down with the BBC and discuss the subject."

Another ITV insider said: "It's a little early to say what will happen but it is very unlikely that we would sell the BBC pictures of Football League matches."



Laing: loses title